



**Return to  
Uryside School  
August 2020**

Hello everyone,

We are looking forward to seeing the children back in school. Although we have mostly kept in touch by digital learning and other means, we have missed each and every one of you.

School will be a safe place. We will prioritise looking after your children with kindness and care. We will work with you to make sure they are healthy and physically safe but also that they *feel* safe with us.

Children have been away from school for a while, so we understand they will all have made different amounts of progress with learning. We will adapt to this and make sure we understand and provide what each child needs to learn.

Families have been through what might have been a stressful time. We understand it may take time for children to settle back at school and for families to get back into routines. Please let us know if we can help.

Education is a partnership between school and home. We will do our best to consult you on key decisions. Please always feel free to let us know any ideas or needs we can act on.

School staff have also been through a difficult time. We are all learning how to get things right for each other. Please bear with us if things are not ideal, and let us know any concerns.

Education is about doing interesting and meaningful things now, but also a preparation for the future. We will work with you and your child to make sure they have the opportunities they need despite the recent and any future disruptions.

Mrs Dodd and the Uryside Team

## Coming Back to School

Assuming that we are all returning to school full-time in August, on the first week back we are going to have a soft start. Pupils in P2-7 will return in smaller groups for one day each between Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August, all returning full-time from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August. Pupils in P1 will follow a different programme that has already been intimated to parents. Nursery pupils will follow their own programme which will be distributed directly by the Nursery team.

### P2-7 pupils

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August – In-service days for staff. No pupils will attend.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August – **Red** group pupils only will attend

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August – **Yellow** group pupils only will attend

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August – **Blue** group pupils only will attend

**Please check on the email sent intimating your child's teacher and class which states the group they have been allocated to. If you have more than one child in P2-7, they will have been allocated the same group for attendance.**

From Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August – all pupils in P2-7 will attend full-time.

From Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August – P1 pupils will join P2-7 pupils in attending full-time.

## School Day Start and Finish Times

In order to social distance as much as we can, the start and finish times of the day will be staggered to allow for ease of flow both on and off the campus. (Alternative times apply to P1 before 31<sup>st</sup> August)

We ask that children arrive at school between the designated times. Children should not arrive earlier. If children are running later than their designated time, they should proceed to the main entrance to be greeted and signed in.

Classes	Arrival	Departure
P3A, P4A, P4/5, P6A, P7A	8.45-8.55	2.45
P3B, P4B, P5, P6B, P7B	9.00-9.10	3.00
P1A, P1B, P1C, P1/2, P2A, P2B	9.15-9.25	3.15

## **Travelling to and from School**

Parents are encouraged to walk, cycle or scoot their children to school, being mindful of social distancing and safety. However, if you drive please park further away and allow your child to walk onto the campus. The car park will only be available to staff cars, school transport and those requiring additional assistance via the use of disabled spaces. This is due to our need to use the areas around the carpark to safely direct pupils to classes and muster some of the younger classes.

Parents of P2-7 pupils are kindly asked to leave their child at the edge of the campus to be directed or collected by the adults present. This is vital to minimise contact with others. Staff will be on hand to support children on campus, showing them where to go and ensuring they feel safe.

P1 and Nursery parents are asked to only have one parent accompanying a child onto the campus. P1 pupils will work towards independence of coming into school throughout Term 1.

At the end of the day, pupils from P1-2 will be accompanied to collection points to be reunited in turn with their parents. We will encourage pupils to remain safe and aware of each other at all times.

## **Moving and mixing within the school building**

Pupils will be given their own sets of resources to use in class. These will be kept in their personal, named tray. Sharing of resources will be kept to a minimum and where it is necessary for resources to be shared, eg technology, these will be cleaned between uses.

We have requested that each pupil brings their own flat pencil case with specific stationary items, however if this is not possible school will allocate personal stationary resource packs.

On entering the building, children will wash their hands. We will have hand sanitizer in all areas and soap will be available at all sinks. There are sinks available outside all classrooms. If your child has sensitive skin, please feel free to supply preferred personal products.

Whenever a child leaves or enters a classroom, good hand hygiene will be practiced. This is the same for all adults in the school.

To minimise contact with others outside of our class bubbles, we will minimise movement around the school. Pupils will always enter and exit the building through their classroom door.

Classes will be allocated two specific toilets and related wash basins. These will be cleaned on a regular basis throughout the day. Generally, only one pupil will be allowed to go to the toilet from each class at a time but we have capacity for 2 pupils at a time from each class. There are two additional toilets in the P1-3 area.

## **Snack and lunch**

Children will eat their snack and lunch in their classroom initially. We will move lunches to the dining room at a time when it feels safe to do so and will be guided in this by the catering team. When this happens, we will support pupils in a gradual change to ensure they feel secure doing this and are not overwhelmed.

At this time, it is advisable for no-one to leave the school temporarily during the day – for example at lunch time – to minimise contact across different groups of people. If this affects you or your child in any way, please contact school.

School lunches will be available for families who choose to use this service. There will be one hot and one cold option each day. These will be ordered in the morning, as we have previously done, and will be delivered to the classroom by members of the catering team. Those who choose to bring a packed lunch should ensure the thoroughly clean the lunch box each evening before returning to school the next day.

All pupils should bring their own water bottle to school each day. These should be named with a permanent marker and cleaned thoroughly each evening.

## **Visiting or entering the school building**

Parents and visitors are requested not to arrive at school unannounced. Please communicate with the school office via email or phone.

Where possible, appointments will be made for a meeting via either phone or Skype. If a face-to-face meeting is the only option, a risk assessment will be carried out before any meeting can take place within the school building.

Many of our community and parental engagement activities will need to be adapted until at least October and perhaps until Christmas. We will be guided by government and council advice on this. In the meantime, we will look for alternative, online ways to open our doors and engage our school community in our education and information sessions.

Visitors to school will be asked to wash their hands on arrival. There will be hand sanitizer available in all areas. Visitors should only enter the building through the main entrance. Access for visitors will not be permitted through any other door.

## The Curriculum

Returning to school after being away from the building for so long will be overwhelming for some of our pupils. In response to this and the break from 'in school' education, the curriculum has been redesigned for recovery of learning for the first half of the new school year. At the end of this time, we will evaluate where the children are in their learning and adapt the curriculum appropriately. For some children, this may mean a continued focus on the priority areas, whilst others can begin to work more across the wider curriculum areas.

### Priority area 1 – Health and Wellbeing

Much of our time when we return to the school building is going to be about building relationships, ensuring that every child is feeling happy and safe. Getting to know their new teachers and classes, supporting each other in reintegrating to school and familiarising ourselves to life in school. We will not be rushing this process and we are mindful that families have all had different experiences of lockdown, therefore children are returning to us in some cases quite changed from the child we last saw. If you are at all concerned about your child's mental health following the last few months and the return to school, please contact school as we can work together to support your child and, if necessary, refer you to partner agencies for more guidance.

We also want to have fun with our pupils when they return and hope to have some sunny weather so that we can enjoy our outdoor spaces together, giving us all a sense of freedom again.

## The Curriculum

### Priority 2 – Literacy

Without a sound basis of literacy, all other areas of the curriculum are inaccessible. We rely on our reading, writing, listening and talking skills in order to engage with all other aspects of learning.

In order to recover the learning, we will ensure literacy is a main part of every day in school, working across the three areas of literacy and extending pupils' skills further. Learning will be tailored to each child according to the skills they need to develop. Areas that have been mastered during our time of home learning will be developed and extended.

### Priority 3 – Numeracy – Number processes

Number processes are the building blocks of all numeracy learning. Without a sound knowledge of even the most basic of number processes it is impossible to develop understanding of more complex maths as a pupil progresses through school.

In order to recover the learning, we will ensure number process learning is a main part of every day in school. We are fortunate enough to have resources recognised nationally as being effective in improving learning in number processes in plentiful supply available to all pupils. This learning will be consolidated further with mental, written and problem solving opportunities all focussed on number work.

Learning will be tailored to each child according to the skills they need to develop. Areas that have been mastered during our time of home learning will be developed and extended.

## The Curriculum

Other areas of the curriculum will not be forgotten about but will not be covered in the same depth as usual whilst we focus on the recovery in our 3 key priorities.

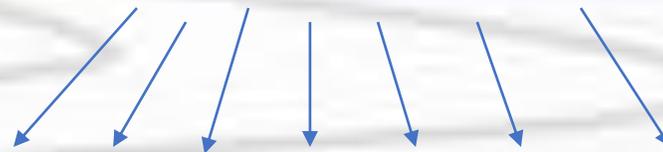
Unless children feel secure, they cannot learn effectively

### **Health and Wellbeing**



**Literacy** skills are the keys to unlocking learning in all other areas.

**Number processes** are the building blocks of all **Numeracy** learning and connect much of our wider learning with meaning.



*Learning is unlocked in all other areas.*

*Science, Technology, Social Subjects, Modern Languages, RME, Expressive Arts*

## **PE**

Assuming it is safe to return fully in August, pupils will be able to engage with PE outdoors. This is felt to be safer than engaging in PE indoors.

Pupils will not be required to bring PE clothes in the first instance. When this position changes, parents will be informed. They should however bring suitable outdoor clothing as we will go outdoors in all types of weather.

Pupils will wash their hands on leaving the classroom for PE and again on returning to the classroom afterwards.

## **Music tuition**

We expect that musical instrumental tuition will resume as soon as that is possible. How this is to be delivered is yet to be confirmed. We will let those involved know as soon as we have further information.

### **First Aid and intimate care**

If a child becomes unwell during their time in school, they will be isolated from their class until they can be collected. The Good Morning room and Community Kitchen have been identified as the appropriate places for this purpose. If their illness is symptomatic of Covid-19 then parents will be requested to submit their child for a test.

If the child then tests positive, the current guidance is that all those who have had close contact with that child should isolate for a period of time. We expect further guidance on this before we return to school.

If a child requires intimate care, ie nappy changing, assistance with medical needs, etc, staff supporting them will wear disposable gloves, apron, face shield and/or mask. However, if it is an emergency situation the attendance to the child will take priority over the application of PPE.

## Contingency plans

All of the information shared in this document is based on the assumption that we will be told on 30<sup>th</sup> July by the Scottish Government that it is safe to have a full return to school.

However, we have plans in place for a socially distanced return at 2m or 1m should we need them. If this is the case, we will adopt a 1 week in 3 attendance pattern and your child's attendance group would be the same as previously shared for soft start. In that case the pattern of return would be as below:

Primary Option		M	T	W	T	F
Week 1	10 Aug			Group 1	Group 1	Group 1
Week 2	17 Aug	Group 2	Group 2	Group 2	Group 2	
Week 3	24 Aug	Group 3	Group 3	Group 3	Group 3	
Week 4	31 Aug	Group 1	Group 1	Group 1	Group 1	
Week 5	7 Sept	Group 2	Group 2	Group 2	Group 2	
Week 6	14 Sept	Group 3	Group 3	Group 3	Group 3	
Week 7	21 Sept	Group 1	Group 1	Group 1	Group 1	
Week 8	28 Sept	Group 2	Group 2	Group 2	Group 2	
Week 9	5 Oct	Group 3	Group 3	Group 3	Group 3	

We will communicate if this is necessary – along with all other contingency arrangements - in the first week in August.

A full risk assessment has been developed which covers all options.

## **Session 2020-21**

While the start of the new session will be different, I am sure it will not take us long to get back into our normal routines and start moving forward with our normal school life again. Our core values of Kindness, Resilience, Growing, Challenge and Support will help us to reclaim our feeling of togetherness and belonging, helping us to emerge from our shared distanced experience, an even stronger community than before.

As soon as we know it is safe, we will begin to reintegrate our school community events into our calendar – our community cafes, class assemblies, open afternoons, face-to-face meetings, performances and sharing events. Until then, we will continue to do as many of these ‘virtually’ as possible.

With a crisis such as we have experienced comes an exciting opportunity for change and improvement. There may be many aspects of school life that we may now feel can be changed or adapted for the better. These are things which can be discussed by us all as we continue on our journey of continuous improvement moving forward.

We look forward to seeing you all in August, ready to have new adventures and create new memories.

We wish you all a very restful and healthy summer break.