**Ballater School February 2021**

**Phased Return to School for Nursery and Pupils in P1-3**

You will be aware that pupils are to start a phased return to attending school from Monday 22nd February 2021.

February 22nd is the return date for all nursery and pupils in P1-3 on a full-time basis.

Pupils in P4 to P7 will continue to be provided with home learning via Google Classroom.

The school will also continue to be open for P4-7 pupils of Key Workers and Vulnerable families as previously arranged in a Hub set up.

As before, we are not permitted to allow any adults to access the building unless in exceptional pre-arranged circumstances.

If you need to contact the school, please telephone (a message system is in place) or email the school in box – ballater.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

**Staffing**

The nursery team will return to deliver the sessions as before.

Mrs Cruickshank will teach her P1-3 class and Mrs Davidson will be teaching her P3 cohort. As Mrs Davidson is unable to be available to be in school full time and support full time home learning for the P4-P6 pupils, Mrs Duckworth will take over responsibility for P4-6 until they are permitted to return to being in school.

Mrs Beaton will continue to support P6/7 remotely until the class are able to return to school.

All our support staff will return to school from Monday 22nd February.

Mrs Garratt will teach in school 2 days a week to provide class teachers with preparation time and she will be working to support some individual learners.

Mrs Bull will work in school one day a week to support P1-3 pupils face to face and will also work from home the second day she works with us to continue supporting older pupils remotely.

Mrs Florence will return to her usual hours in school from Monday 22nd February 9.00am – 3.15pm.

Mrs Duckworth remains shielding for the time being, so will continue to work from home, supporting P4-6 from Mrs Davidson’s class and running the school remotely.

**Opening/ Closing Times**

Nursery- drop off from 8.45am until 8.50 am at the nursery gate.

Please access the nursery via the kitchen end of the building and wait in socially distanced queue if required. Your child will be met at the nursery gate and escorted into the building to follow hygiene protocols. Please ensure only one adult brings your child to the drop off point and the adult is wearing a face mask and adults are maintaining a social distance at all times when in the school grounds.

Nursery pupils can be collected from 1.25pm – 1.30pm from the wooded area at the back of the kitchen end of the building, as before masks should be worn, one adult per child and social distancing should be maintained.

**P1-3**

We will continue to operate the 9.05am start and 3.10pm finish for all P1-3 pupils to avoid confusion when older pupils return.

Mrs Cruickshank’s class should meet her at 9.05 am outside the main office door and will be brough out to meet parents here at 3.10pm. Please ensure there is only one parent per child, face masks are worn and social distancing is followed. We have been asked to emphasise that parents should not be on school grounds or gathered for any longer than is absolutely necessary to reduce any potential spread of the virus. Please do not arrive and gather more than five minutes before dropping off or pick up times.

Mrs Davidson’s P3 pupils should meet her at the Geddes Gate, on Monaltrie Avenue at 9.05am and will be brought out to meet parents here at 3.10pm each day. Please ensure there is only one parent per child, face masks are to be worn and social distancing is followed. We have been asked to emphasise that parents should not be on school grounds or gathered for any longer than is absolutely necessary to reduce any potential spread of the virus. Please do not arrive and gather more than five minutes before dropping off or pick up times.

**P4-7 Hub Pupils**

Should arrive via the main office door at 9.00am and will be dismissed via the same door at 3.15pm.

**School Meals**

School meals will be available free to all nursery and P1-3 pupils as before.

Pupils in P1-3 may bring a packed lunch if they prefer. Packed lunches should be provided in a box and all waste will be taken home to ensure infection control protocols are followed.

P1-3 pupils can bring a morning snack if wanted and pupils should have a fresh bottle of water in their school bags daily.

P4-7 Hub pupils can have a school meal or packed lunch.

**Resources**

As before, pupils should not bring toys or any other resources in from home at present. We will only send home items which have been quarantined in school first. Homework jotters and reading books will not be sent home at present.

Class teachers will be in touch to establish communication methods when they are ready.

PE kits will not be required but pupils should ensure they have suitable outdoor footwear for using in the park for PE.

**School uniform**

Pupils are encouraged to wear school uniform where possible. Clean clothes should be worn each day. The classrooms will be ventilated in line with Covid protocols which may mean they are cooler than usual. Warm clothing is recommended. All pupils will be outside several times during the day for breaks and outdoor learning, please ensure they are suitably dressed for the weather.

**School Transport**

School transport will be provided for those children who usually arrive on a school bus. Please ensure your child is wearing a clean mask each day when travelling on the bus. A member of staff will meet bus children at the front door when they arrive off their bus in the morning and they will be taken to their bus at the end of each day.

**Infection Control**

The infection control measures that were in place before the Christmas break will continue.

Pupils will be expected to sanitise their hands as they enter and leave the building, hand washing will be carried out at regular intervals throughout the day, access to resources will be restricted and then cleaned when used, class bubbles will be maintained in and outside the building, adults in the building and within the school grounds must wear face masks (staff Type IIR) and maintain social distancing. A mid-day clean will take place around the building each day to clean high usage areas.

Classroom tables, surfaces and chairs will be cleaned regularly throughout the day as before.

**Google Classroom**

We will continue to use Google Classroom to provide learning for all pupils in P4-7 until they are permitted to return to face to face learning in school. Google meets will continue for P4-6 and P6/7. We will confirm days and times as soon as we are able.

We are looking forward to seeing our youngest learners back in the building next week.

 If you have any queries or concerns, please use the school email address to get in touch with us and we will get back to as soon as possible.

We will be in touch when we have any further information to share.

Regards

Ballater School and Nursery Staff team.