

21st August 2020 – Weekly Update



Dear Parents/Carers

We've come to the end of our first week with pupils back in school full time. It has been a successful week and our pupils have been absolutely amazing! I'm sure there were some anxieties for our families as they came back, but it certainly didn't show. They have coped brilliantly with the changes to school routine and procedures and are to be highly praised.

We are constantly reviewing the systems and procedures in place and adapting things here and there to make improvements. Over the last few days, we have collated a list of helpful reminders for everyone.

Primary 1

Our Primary 1s begin full days next week. Here is a reminder of the timings for Rm 4, 5 and 7.

Please remember that only 1 adult should accompany the child. The Lane Gate or Gray Street Gate can be used to enter the playground.

	Entry/Exit Door	Start	Break		Lunch		Home
Rm 4 P1	Infant	8.55am	10.30am	10.45am	11.50am	12.30pm	2.50pm
Rm 5 P1/2	Infant	9am	10.30am	10.45am	11.50am	12.30pm	2.55pm
Rm 7 P1	Infant	9.05am	10.30am	10.45am	11.50am	12.30pm	3pm

Lunchtimes

Although we are back in school with a full complement of pupils and the smaller bubbles have “burst”, pupils are now in a class “bubble”. This means that whilst in school, they should stay in this bubble as much as possible and should not be mixing with other “bubbles” for longer than 15 minutes. This hopefully helps to explain our lunchtime organisation where children are in the dining hall for 15 minutes and outside for 15 minutes with 5 minute change over times built in to the overall 40 minute lunch session. Doing it this way means that children do get an opportunity to play with pupils from some other classes, no more than 5 classes in the playground at one time for no longer than 15 minutes.

Over the course of this week the pupils have really managed the lunchtime system well and have quickly become used to the shorter timings. There are a couple of things you could help us with to ensure that this continues to run smoothly:

- Packed Lunches – please pack items that children can manage independently wherever possible. (this reduces the need for adults to have to touch food items)
- Remind children to bring their lunch boxes home at the end of the day please. These should be removed from school each day to be wiped/sanitised at home.

A hot meal service will resume from Monday. Please check the ACC website and discuss the meal options with your child, this helps to ensure that children are served quickly. [School Meal Menu](#)

At this time, local guidance states that primary children should be staying in school for lunch. We are not permitting home lunches currently. (This is a change to information in our Return to School Plan)

Snacks

Just a quick reminder that pupils only need a small snack at break time. Snack is eaten inside just before playtime to ensure hands are clean before and after eating.

Entry and Exit to school

We are really pleased to see our entry and exit procedure working well with most adults observing 2m distancing. It is extremely important that this continues as any gathering of adults outside the school will cause anxiety for members of our school community. Please try and have only one adult accompanying a child to school as this reduces the numbers considerably. With a school roll of 400 it amounts to a lot of people in a small area! Please also try to stick to the timings for your child's class where you can, this is difficult for families with more than one child in school, but again this impacts positively on the numbers in the area. The timings and organisation is also planned to ensure that different groups of pupils are not together for longer than necessary.

Parking

If you are unable to walk to school, please adopt a "park and stride" approach rather than parking close to school. Our phone lines are often busy with calls from concerned neighbours regarding cars parked over driveways etc. This also reduces congestion and is a safer, healthier way to travel to school.

Our school car park is closed to everyone except staff.

Further information will come soon regarding After School Club access.

Hand Hygiene

As per our previous communication this week. Anyone entering the building must sanitise their hands at the door. Anyone unable to use the sanitiser provided must always provide their own and be able to keep this with them when moving around the building/going outside.

Belongings from home

Please ensure that your child comes to school with minimal items in their school bag. We communicated this week that a book from home is permitted now and mitigations are in place to ensure safety:

- Only 1 book to be brought into school from home
- Book is not to be shared
- Kept in school bag when not in use
- Surfaces wiped clean following use in class

Any school resources that were given home prior to lockdown to help with home learning should be kept at home. Procedures for the return of laptops and other digital devices will be communicated soon.

School Uniform

Children should come to school in a clean school uniform each day. In the coming weeks, your child's teacher will be in touch regarding PE times. These will be held outside and children should come to school on PE days dressed appropriately for PE lessons in the playground or 'Woodies'. Children will not be changing in school for PE sessions.

- Gym shoes/Trainers for outside
- Jogging trousers
- Waterproof jacket

Attendance at school

The Scottish Government has directed that all school buildings in Scotland would reopen to pupils in the week commencing Monday 10th August. Aberdeen City Council is required to comply with Scottish Government direction.

A comprehensive risk assessment has been undertaken by each school and robust measures have been put in place across the school estate. Aberdeen City Council and our leadership team will keep our plans and risk assessments continually under review and will update these in keeping with national guidance and local knowledge.

We continue to work closely with the Scottish Government and NHS Grampian to ensure all necessary health and safety measures are in place in our school buildings.

When school buildings are open there is a legal requirement for children and young people to attend. We would encourage parents to contact schools if they are anxious about the return to school buildings.

Teaching staff cannot provide home learning if parents opt out of sending their child to school.

If your child develops symptoms

As per our Risk Assessment, if any child develops possible symptoms of COVID 19 they will be taken to an isolation space in school and you will be contacted to come and take them home as soon as possible. You should then self-isolate and book a test. Please ensure that we have updated contact information and that emergency contacts are available. Please keep the school updated on progress with testing.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone for their support and co-operation this week. Have a lovely weekend, follow the National and Local Guidance, and stay safe.

Mrs D Reid

Head Teacher

