Headteacher's Newsletter Friday 14 August 2020

Dear families,

It has been lovely to see you and our young people this week and welcome you back to school. It worked well having half the children in on both Wednesday and Thursday, as this gave everyone the chance to talk and learn about our new daily routines. These are still new to staff and pupils, but this will soon become second nature to us all as we work through this next term. There may well be changes to some of our routines and we will make sure that we keep you informed.

One of the changes we need to make is to stop using cash at the school office and in the dining centre. We appreciate this is challenging, but it is safer and more hygienic for staff and pupils. Please make sure that you are signed up for ParentPay where at all possible. This system works really well and you can add dinner money, pay for school ties etc all through this account. If you need help to set this up, our office staff would be happy to support you. If you are unable to use ParentPay, Perth and Kinross Council are asking us to use PayPoint instead, so please contact the office if this is your preferred option.

As we missed our transition days last term, next Thursday and Friday our S1 will be having their free Induction lunches at the dining centre. More information to follow through Tutor Time in school and on the website.

It is important that you are up-to-date with information and I have sent out a useful website link below that fully explains the testing and tracing system in Scotland –

Test and protect guidance

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about their responsibility to socially distance themselves from other people. This is one of the main ways that we, as a community, can stop the spread of Corona Virus and I would urge you to always be vigilant and not become complacent. Please don't be offended if staff, pupils or other parents gently remind you to keep your distance and be aware of signs and markings around the school building.

I have collated the questions that I have been asked over the last few days and weeks into a Frequently Asked Questions and I hope that you find this useful.

Many thanks for not using the rear carpark. This is for the safety of the children, as secondary are now lining up in their House groups prior to entering the school and have specific doors to enter and exit the building.

Thank you for your support and reinforcement at home of all the measures we have in place. I'd like to share something that made us smile today. P3 were working on Similes and one of our P3 children shared their new one – as friendly as hand sanitiser, because it smells nice and keeps us safe. How apt for our current times.

Have a good weekend.

Take care

Elaine Liney

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Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Can my child wear a mask?** Yes, they can bring in and wear a mask if they want to. Some children are doing this both on school transport and around the building.
2. **Will staff be wearing masks?** Some staff are opting to wear masks every day in classes. Others are wearing PPE (including masks, aprons, gloves and visors) because they are working at a distance of less than 2m for 15 minutes or more or are delivering first aid or personal care to a child.
3. **Can my child bring their own hand sanitiser?** Yes, they can, but please make sure it's clearly labelled and that they know not to share with anyone else. Although we do use hand sanitiser in school, it is possible in most locations to wash our hands with soap and water and dry them with disposable paper towels.
4. **Does my child need to bring in cleaning materials?** No, we provide all necessary cleaning materials in school and these are available in every classroom as per our risk assessment. Staff have extra responsibilities to clean and oversee cleaning in their areas. Older children will sometimes be asked to clean their desks, seats, laptops etc as necessary. We also have a Tayside Contract cleaner in school all day, making sure our touch surfaces, toilets etc are regularly cleaned during the day. There are three further levels of cleaning that take place: Clean 1 - regular cleaning focusing mainly on touch surfaces in classrooms, meeting areas and offices; Clean 2 – focuses on communal areas, stairwells etc and includes our day cleaner and Clean 3 – a full industrial clean if a pupil or member of staff tests positive for Corona Virus.
5. **What about coughs and sneezes?** We ask the children to cough into their elbows and have paper tissues available in each class for occasional coughs and sneezes. These are then thrown in the bin.
6. **What do I do if my child doesn't seem well?** Please keep your child at home if they seem at all unwell. Although this may only be a minor ailment, it is safer for us all to try and be healthy when we are attending school. You will be phoned to collect your child if they appear unwell at school.
7. **Is my child taking part in PE?** Yes, all pupils will take part in PE as per our timetable. Children have been asked to attend school in their PE kit on these days and simply bring a change of shoes. There are restrictions in place around changing and safe activities in PE and we are following the Scottish Government guidelines. There is a risk assessment in place throughout the school.
8. **Why have you asked the children to wear uniform?** School uniform is relatively easy to buy and to launder. It is important that your child attends school in clean clothes every day to minimise cross contamination and keep us all safe. In secondary, school ties may present an issue, so please don't worry if you don't have a clean tie to wear. It is also worth noting that

in the past, the children have told us that they prefer to wear uniform and choosing what to wear eg on non-uniform days is an added stress for them.

9. **Will my child be bringing things home from school?** Yes, there may be books, library books, flashcards, paintings etc coming home with your child. Please make sure that you wash your hands after touching any of these things and wipe down covers etc where possible. It is recommended to leave paper products for 72 hours before using them. We have systems in place in school and I am sure you will all have systems in place at home for mail, shopping etc and we would remind you to always maintain good hand hygiene.
10. **Will my child be sharing equipment eg laptops, ipads etc at school?** We have tried to minimise the sharing of small equipment items by making sure that children have their own packs and are given what they need by staff. Some equipment, like laptops, will be shared – these will be cleaned before and after use, no fabric bags will be used to transport them and a clear list of who has used each laptop will be noted.
11. **What will happen if my child shows symptoms of Corona Virus at school?** We have a specific first aid room set aside for this reason. Your child will be cared for by one of our first aiders, wearing appropriate PPE and you will be contacted to arrange to collect your child and seek appropriate medical advice. We will remind you about the Test and Protect Guidance.
12. **What should I do if I or my family is having a test?** If possible, please let us know that you are being tested. Once you have the result, please phone the school on 01796 474666 and let us know. Always follow the instructions and advice given by NHS medical professionals.
13. **What will happen if someone tests positive for Corona Virus in school?** You will be contacted by Test and Protect and asked to follow their instructions.