Headteacher newsletter Friday 19 February 2021

Dear Families,

This week the newsletter is very factual focused on our partial return to school on Monday 22 February and will give you an overview of what is happening throughout the school and the main changes we have made which will remain in place until reviewed at Easter.

In Nursery, we have decided to use the main school hall and the Nursery space for our young people. This is principally to avoid parental congestion outside Nursery and to maximise the available space for staff and children. We will have two groups in the hall forming one bubble and three groups in Nursery in 2 bubbles.

In Primary, we have decided to stagger the start and finish of P1 and P1/2 to reduce parental congestion at the P1 door and separate the classes as much as we can. We have also created areas for each Primary class in the playground. The children will be able to mix and play within their classes, but not across classes. Please make sure that your child has / children have appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear as we will be learning, playing and doing PE outdoors each week. Our Hubs in upper Primary and Secondary will continue to operate as before and there is no change to these arrangements.

In Secondary, we have a partial return of S4 with a maximum of 8% of our role in school at any one time to complete practical work for SQA. We have created a weekly timetable but need the flexibility to change this as the staff and pupils require and will inform young people and their parents when they are required on a weekly basis. Our senior pupils are always required to socially distance from each other. They will also be offered the option of home testing to help identify asymptomatic carriers.

Each of you will have received a letter detailing the arrangements for your child/children and please do not hesitate to phone the school if you have any questions or queries.

We need you to help us to stay safe so please adhere to the following –

- Make sure that you wear a face covering when dropping off or collecting your child / children from school.
- Always maintain a 2m distance from other adults (staff and parents).
- Carefully time your arrival at school to avoid unnecessary contact, arriving no earlier than 5 mins before the start and end of the day for your child.

It is human nature to want to be with and talk to others and it is what many of us are missing the most, but please stick to the rules as we all want this partial return to be successful.

Please remember not to bring your dog into the school grounds. We are currently having terrible trouble with people not picking up after their dogs and it is a hazard for staff, pupils and parents alike.

We are looking forward to welcoming some of our pupils back next week and will be continuing to offer remote learning for P4-S4. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the staff, both in school and at home, who make this possible for us on a weekly basis, to the parents who have embraced this new way of living and working and to our young people who continue to approach this situation with strength, humour and resilience. Thank you.

Have a good weekend.

Take care

Elaine Liney