



## Customer Services

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Dear Parents,

I hope you are all well and managed to have a nice summer. I am delighted to be confirming we are opening fully again to all pupils on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> of August. The staff are all looking forward to getting back to school and welcoming all our pupils, old and new back. Please find below some information which I hope you will find useful.

I am starting with some great news, Mrs Hendry had a beautiful baby girl last week, and she has called her Abigail, congratulations to both Kerry and Iain. We look forward to meeting her, when we can.

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Freda Mucklow will be joining us at Arrochar Primary, she will be the Primary 3/4 teacher for next session. Freda will be covering Kerry's maternity leave. The staff have known Freda for many years and we know she will be an excellent addition in Kerry's absence.

Just to confirm arrangements for this session, Ms Kathryn Haggarty, Mrs Joanne Stark, Miss Kirsty Cordner and Mrs Catherine Driscoll will be our Pre-5 staff. Miss Kirsten Black will be teaching P1/2, Mrs Freda Mucklow teaching P3/4, Miss Catriona McMurtrie teaching P5/6 and Mrs Jane McAloon teaching P7.

The biggest issue I had to address when planning a full reopening for everyone was the size of our classrooms. I had to take into account the Scottish Governments 2 metre social distancing guidance, between staff and staff, and staff and pupils. Our current P7 class capacity is for 11 pupils, however when you factor in the social distancing that has to be observed between the teacher and pupils, this means the classroom can only hold 9 pupils, meaning this classroom can no longer be used under the current guidance. The following classes will be in the following classrooms and areas for the time being. The Pre-5 unit will use the existing Pre-5 space and the outside secure play area, Primary 1/2 will now be in the old P1/2 classroom, Primary 3/4 will now be back in the old P3/4 classroom, P5/6 will still be in the school hall and Primary 7 will be in the old P5/6 classroom. Just a slight change from the information I sent you in June.

We will be working outside as much as possible, so a waterproof jacket and wellington boots/waterproof shoes are advisable. We would also like you to leave a pair of wellington



boots with us in the nursery and school, so we can use them as and when needed. Scottish Government advice is that Gym/PE/Fitness should happen outside, so we will need no rain and no midges for the next few months! I would suggest a long sleeved top and joggers, more information to follow as these subjects will not be starting for a week or two.

The following arrangements will be in place until the Scottish Government guidance changes.

Pre-5 pupils should be dropped off **after** 9am each morning, they should be dropped off at the Pre-5 outside space, where staff members will be waiting, this will allow the school pupils and parents time to have vacated the entrance and ease congestion at the gate.

It is important that we limit the number of children and parents arriving at the school at the same time. Please also remember school pupils should be dropped off at the gate and left to enter the school playground on their own. If you feel confident, please let your child walk to school on their own, or even the last wee bit on their own, again this would help with limiting the number of people coming and going along a very narrow pavement.

Pre-5 parents can arrange a collection time with staff, collection will also be from the secure outside space, we need all Pre-5 pupils to be collected by 2.45pm. This will mean, all Pre-5 pupils and parents will have left the school grounds before the school pupils are ready to leave. If you have a Pre-5 pupil and a school aged pupil to collect, can I ask that you wait across the road in the school field for the pupils to be released from the school. The crossing patrol will see all pupils safely across the road and the pupils can meet you at a pre-arranged spot in the field. If you are unable to do this, please make sure you social distance and stand well back from the school gate so as to allow the taxi, bus, walkers and janitor space to get out through the gates.

On our return to school on Wednesday we will have separate lining up and play areas in the playground for each class/bubble and school dinners/pack lunches will be eaten in class tables in the canteen. The food choice for Wednesday is Macaroni cheese or chicken curry, menu is enclosed with this email. The children should **not** go in to the canteen on arrival to pre order and pay for their school dinners, we will arrange this class by class once the bell has gone. Please ensure your child brings a water bottle to school daily as they will use this in the classroom. Please remember to include a snack for morning break, as no snacks will be available to buy. When entering the school, Primary 1/2 pupils should stay in the top playground near the Pre-5 outside space. Primary 3/4 should make their way towards the climbing wall side of the playground, Primary 5/6 should go to the bottom football pitch section of the playground and P7 should go to the courtyard area. They should access the courtyard area by entering through the fire exit door opposite the school canteen and out the door leading to the courtyard, both doors will be open. Could you please ensure your child knows what area they have to go to when they enter school on Wednesday.

We have been informed that parents should not be entering the school grounds or buildings unless it is absolutely essential, with the exception of Pre-5 parents dropping off/collecting their child. If you would like to visit, we ask that you please make an appointment by emailing or by phoning the school. Please don't send your child to school before 8.50am. Home time arrangements will also be controlled, the pupils will be release a class at a time, to ensure as much social distancing as possible. Can I please ask that you also remember social distancing as you wait to collect your child.



School transport is not the responsibility of the school, they should have been in contact with you over the summer holidays to arrange pick up points and times. If they have not please either let us know and we will chase this up or phone Garelochhead coaches directly on 01436810200. All pupils over the age of five are required to wear face masks on the bus/taxi, please ensure your child has one to wear.

During the day children will be kept to their classes as much as possible to minimise mixing across groups. Movement within school will be reduced and class groups will be kept together at break times, rotating through identified playground zones.

Regular, supervised, hand-washing / sanitisation will take place for all children at identified intervals throughout the day as per public health guidance for schools.

Please continue to remind your child to be responsible for their own hand hygiene, particularly after using the toilet and to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue to be disposed of in bins.

Children should wear clean uniform each day, if possible. If you require to purchase a school tie, please send your child in with £5.50 to the office, and your child will be provided with one. The teacher will notify you of PE and Outdoor Learning days. On these days children should attend school wearing kit appropriate to the activity to eliminate the need for changing. Schoolbags and basic stationery kits can be brought to school. Children will be asked to leave their pencil cases and equipment in their trays for their sole, personal use. No other unnecessary items should be brought from home.

Our regular Newsletters will begin again as we start and these will keep you informed and updated with all that's in place and going on, we intend to continue to use and further develop Seesaw as a shared communication method around your child's learning.

Regrettably, parents must contact the school by phone or email and should not enter the building unless absolutely necessary and only by prior arrangement.

We really want to keep the school open and avoid another shut down, to do this we need your help and support. If your child or any family member is displaying any Covid-19 symptoms, please do not send them to school, inform the school, book a test for the family and self-isolate.

Face masks are not compulsory in schools, it is up to individual staff and pupils if they wish to wear one or not.

If your child requires regular medication, inhaler etc, can you please make sure they are in your child's schoolbag tomorrow to be handed in to the school office.

This will be a new way of working for us all and I'm sure we will all try our best to make this new way appear as normal as possible for the children.

I know there's a lot of information here and appreciate you may still have some questions you would like answered. If you do, please email the school and I will get back to you.

Many thanks

Alison  
Mrs Alison Palmer

Head Teacher



