
Head Teacher: Mrs Alison Palmer

Arrochar Primary School
Tarbet, G83 7DG
Tel: (01301) 702261 Fax: (01301) 702782
e-mail: enquiries@arrochar.argyll-bute.sch.uk

18th February 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all well and that you managed to relax a little over the February holiday. The weather was lovely, cold and snowy, so hopefully you managed to participate in a little sledging and outside fun.

Thank you to our fabulous pupils and parents for the terrific effort and participation with home learning since January. I have joined Google Meets, spoken to staff, monitored Seesaw and observed lots of great work on Google Classroom, I am very proud of the engagement levels we have had, a big thank you must also go to my staff for their dedication and hard work during this unusual time.

Hopefully we are on our way out of lockdown, I'm delighted to inform you that our ELC and Primary 1 to 3 pupils will be back in school from Monday 22nd of February. I would love to think that Primary 4 to 7 would be back in school before Easter but we will just have to wait and see. As soon as I have any information I will share it with you. I know it's not the ideal situation but Primary 4 to 7 will continue with home learning until we are allowed to have them back with us. Can I ask that you continue to ensure that your child/children engage with home learning, attend their scheduled Google meet/teaching sessions, complete the tasks set by the teachers and hand in their work to evidence they have completed the tasks. As you will be aware we have a composite P3/4 class, which in this case is not ideal, our P3 pupils are in school and our P4 pupils have to continue learning from home, with only one teacher this is very difficult to manage, so I have had to cut Mrs Mucklow in half! I have come up with a plan which will allow Mrs Mucklow to be in school teaching P3, then released to have Google meets with P4, she will continue to provide the online learning tasks for Primary 4 too, when she is on Google meets with P4, Mrs Dodson, Mrs Holloway, Mrs Ferrari and myself will teach Primary 3.

The following arrangements will be in place from Monday 22nd of February. Our ELC pupils should be dropped off at 8.55am each morning, they should be dropped off at the ELC side door, by the front gate, where a staff member will be waiting. The Primary 1 to 3 pupils are asked to arrive at the school from 8.45 am to 9am. 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. ELC parents can arrange a collection time with staff, collection will also be from the side door, by the front gate, and we require all ELC pupils to be collected by 2.30pm. This will mean, all ELC pupils and parents will have left the school grounds before the school pupils are ready to leave. If you have an ELC 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, or allow your school aged child to come home on the school bus. 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 Monday 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 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 ELC outside space. Primary 3 should make their way towards the climbing wall side of the playground.

We have been informed that parents should not be entering the school grounds or buildings unless it is absolutely essential, with the exception of ELC parents dropping off/collecting their child. Regrettably, parents must contact the school by phone or email and should not enter the building unless absolutely necessary and only by prior arrangement.

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 8.45am. Home time arrangements will also be controlled, the pupils will be released 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.

We have been asked to share important information about some other things that you can do to reduce risk:

1. Keep wearing face coverings at pick up and drop off time.
2. Keep 2m apart from other adults (staff and parents/carers) at pick up and drop off time, and try not to stand in groups.
3. Try to come at your allocated time to reduce busy periods.
4. Think about wearing a mask in any busy areas on the way to drop off.
5. Stick to the guidance outside of ELC – so if you are having play dates, then keep them outdoors for now. For information on how the guidance applies to children and families, look at www.parentclub.scot.

School transport is not the responsibility of the school, however they have been contacted and they will be collecting the P1-3 pupils at their usual bus stops at the usual times, as of Monday. If you have any questions regarding this you can phone Garelochhead coaches directly on 01436810200, or contact the school on 01301702261. 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. 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 continue 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.

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

We will all try our best to make this return to school 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

