



CLERMISTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Thursday 6th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Please see below for information regarding return to school next week. This is a council-wide communication that we have tailored with details specific to our school. I have tried to keep it as brief as possible, but you will see that that doesn't mean it is short. It is our hope to communicate Nursery information tomorrow, but there is still some work for us to do to get this information both clarified and ready for release.

Best wishes

Gordon McIntyre
Head Teacher

Returning to Clermiston Primary in August 2020

As you will be aware the First Minister last week announced the re-opening of schools for all children. The 2020-2021 school session will start on Monday 10th August for staff and we will be preparing to welcome our children back from Wednesday 12th August 2020.

We are delighted to be able to welcome our children back to school and want to make sure they feel safe and secure with the changes that will be in place to reduce the transmission of COVID 19. Therefore, the return to school will be phased over three days from Wednesday 12th August to allow our children, parents and staff to become familiar with the changes at the school. This means that not all our children will return on the same day support the management of the phased return and enable our families to plan around the start of the school session we are grouping the children according to their surname. Please see the following for details of your child's return to school.

Week 1 Information for Pupils in P2-7

Child's surname begins	Wednesday 12 August	Thursday 13 August	Friday 14 August
A - L	Start back and attend full day See timings below	Do not attend	Attend full day
M-Z	Do not attend	Start back and attend full day See timings below	Attend full day

Week 1 Information for new Primary 1 Pupils only

Please note that the new arrangements supersede the information given previously. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this, but this is a city-wide decision and not an individual school decision. To facilitate a calmer arrival and pickup for Primary 1 pupils the times **in week 1** will be as follows:

Surname A-L: Wednesday 9.30 – 2.30
Surname M-Z: Thursday 9.30 – 2.30
All P1 pupils: Friday 9.30 – 12.00

If you wish your child to have a shorter session on their first day then we can facilitate a 12pm pickup if you notify us of this in the morning.

Information for all pupils from Week 2 onwards

It is very important to note at this point that children in a class can mix with each other, but a class **cannot** mix with another class – either before school, at break times, lunch times or after school. To help facilitate this we are implementing a staggered start, breaks, lunches and finishing times. This has an effect on the school day timings and these are set out below.

Primary 1 and 2 arrangements.

P1 and P2		
	All P1 classes Mon-Thurs	All P2 classes Mon-Thurs
Start	8.50	9.00
Break	10.15 - 10.35	10.15 – 10.35
Lunch Eating In class	12.00 – 12.20	12.00 - 12.20
Lunch Playing	12.20 – 1.00	12.20 – 1.00
Home	2.40	2.50
	Friday	Friday
	8.50 start 12.20 finish	9.00 start 12.30 finish

P3 – P7		
	P3a, P3/4, P4a, P5a, P6a, P7a Mon-Thurs	P3b, P4b, P5b, P5/6, P6b, P7b Mon-Thurs
Start	8.50	9.00
Break	10.25 - 10.45	10.15 – 10.35
Lunch (Eating In class)	12.30 – 12.45	12.45 – 1.00
Lunch Playing	12.45 – 1.15	12.15 – 12.45
Home	3.05	3.15
	Friday	Friday
Friday	8.50 start 12.30 finish	9.00 start 12.40 finish

We do understand that the groupings may cause some individual issues for families and we advise you to email or call to discuss these. We will not be changing whole class arrangements for individual circumstances however.

What you need to know

Physical distancing - Physical distancing between adults and between adults and children from different families must be observed. This means normal access into the school for parent and carers will be severely restricted to maintain the safety of everyone.

We are implementing a one-way system in our playground whereby parents and carers should enter via the nursery gate on Parkgrove Place and leave using the side gate onto Parkgrove Street.

In the morning:

- **Children should arrive for school within the 10 minutes before their start time and go straight to their line.**
- **Children should not be brought or sent to school early.**
- **We also ask that only 1 adult comes with each child. This does not apply to new Primary 1 pupils in the first week.**
- **If you are staying to see your child into school then you must stand back from the lines and you must socially distance from all other adults in the playground.**

Whilst we understand and also really value that the playground is a great place for parents to catch up with each other and have discussions we have to ask, in the present circumstances, that you clear the school grounds as soon as possible.

Office Arrangements

All communication with the school office should be via telephone or email. There is no facility for parents to enter the school building without very specific prior permission. Arrangements for registering new pupils and for passing on paper documents should be discussed by call or email in advance.

Hygiene arrangements – There will be regular handwashing/sanitising when children are in school and hand sanitisers will be used throughout the building. All children and staff are expected to clean their hands when exiting any room and when entering any room. Enhanced cleaning will take place daily and all rooms have been treated with electro-static fogging. This will happen monthly.

Uniform – It is recommended that your child wears clothing that can be washed frequently and blazers or any items which require dry cleaning should not be worn to school. For Clermiston this means that the usual uniform should be worn where possible, but we understand that this may not always be possible with an increased burden on washing and drying. We will not currently be changing into PE kit for PE and the intention is that PE takes place outdoors so children should come ready for this on PE days.

School Equipment

Children should only bring what they require for school. Cloakrooms will not be in use and coats and bags will be stored on pupils' chairs so as little as possible should be brought.

Children should bring snack, a water bottle, packed lunch (if applicable) and a waterproof coat.

Children should not bring pencils, pencil cases, toys etc.

Indoor shoes should be brought in on week 1 and will stay in classes.

Lunch Arrangements – School lunches are packed lunches until further notice and these will be within their own classroom, supervised by their own teacher. Free packed lunches are available for pupils in P1-3 and pupils in receipt of free school meals throughout the school or they can be ordered via ParentPay or children may bring their own from home.

Playtimes and Lunchtimes

Children will stay within their class groupings in a designated area of the playground. They will not be allowed to socialise and mix with other class groups.

After School Clubs and Breakfast Club – Arrangements and discussions regarding these are still in progress and will be communicated as soon as possible. At present there are no choir or Active Schools sessions taking place.

We recognise that the sudden and unprecedented changes that have taken place since the end of March will have had an impact on our children and they may be feeling uncertain about the return to school. I want to reassure you that staff fully appreciate the anxieties that children may have about the return, and we will welcome and support everyone to make the transition back to school a positive experience.

I look forward to seeing you all next week.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon McIntyre
Head Teacher