

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope Braes families are doing well just now. It has been encouraging to see our young people continue to make progress in their new timetable this week. Please see below an update on a number of issues:

Last Day of term

The last day of term is Friday 25th June. Lunch will be at 12.35pm until 1.15pm. The school will be closed by 1.30pm. Buses will arrive to collect pupils at 12.35pm. This day will be a non-uniform day. Pupils are invited to pay £1 for school funds. The usual rules of not wearing football colours, or clothing with inappropriate slogans apply. The new session begins for pupils on Wednesday 18th August 2021.

COVID-19 arrangements

The efforts in ensuring we keep our school as physically safe as possible are appreciated. Please continue to ensure that no person comes into school if they have COVID-19 symptoms. If anyone in the household has COVID-19 symptoms, they should book a PCR test, and they, along with the rest of their household should isolate until a negative result is received.

Lateral Flow Device Testing

It has been encouraging to see large numbers of our young people participating in the Scottish Government Lateral Flow Device testing programme. We would continue to encourage young people to participate in this. To be able to collect kits from reception, the necessary permission must be given from parents/carers using the link in the attached letter. The attached Privacy Notice and guide on how to use the kits should also be consulted. In particular, I would encourage young people using the kits to ensure they collect tests to take home over the summer. There is no expectation that testing is carried on across the summer holiday, but it would make sense to carry out tests during the last week of the summer holiday before returning to school on Wednesday 18th August 2021.

School Calendar for session 2021/22

Please find attached a calendar outlining key dates planned for next session. As you might expect, events may happen in different ways, and timings may fluctuate, as the situation develops. However we will keep parents/carers advised of any changes.

School Day Arrangements for session 2021/22

The Scottish Government published this week an advice note for schools indicating that no changes should be made to the mitigations we currently have in place in school, until further scientific and schools guidance is issued in August. Of course we are keen to ensure our school day is as 'normal' as possible, and when this guidance emerges, we will communicate with parents/carers and pupil as to our arrangements for Braes. In the meantime, we will continue with the arrangements currently in place.

Yours sincerely,

Iain Livingstone