



Falkirk Council
Children's Services

Direct Dial: 01324-506600
Date: 8th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Update on return to school

I am writing to update you on the latest decisions on the re-opening of schools.

The Scottish Government has announced that the next phase of re-opening education will take place on Monday 15 March.

Primary and Primary ASN provisions

Pupils in P4-7 will return to school on Monday 15 March, joining P1-3 pupils who are already back at school. Arrangements for vulnerable children and the children of keyworkers will end, and these children will re-join their normal classes.

The latest Scottish Government Guidance has stated that breakfast club provision may begin to reopen from Monday 15th March. However, through consultation with Public Health and to support the safe return of our children and staff, it is our intention to review staffing capacity and risk assessments with a view to reinstating breakfast club provision for those schools who previously provided it, as soon as it is safe to do so. This assessment will be undertaken in consultation with NHS Forth Valley Public Health.

Parents are reminded to ensure 2m physical distancing when dropping off or collecting children from school and to wear a face covering. Parents are also reminded that they should not access schools without a prior appointment.

Schools will contact parents/carers by Friday 12 March with any further details of the return.

Secondary and Secondary ASN provisions/schools

From 15 March, all secondary pupils in S1-S3 will be in at least once per week, face to face learning and pupils in S4-S6 will be in at least twice per week. Each school will decide how to safely balance remote and in-school learning based on local circumstances and needs.

Arrangements for remote learning for pupils who are currently not in school will be revised to provide balance to the reopening plans.

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Schools will contact parents/carers to inform you of these changes.

It is the Scottish Government's expectation that all secondary school pupils will be back in school on a full time basis after the Easter holidays, Monday 19th April.

Face coverings are mandatory for all secondary pupil (S1-S6). Parents are also reminded that they should not access schools without a prior appointment.

Schools will contact parents/carers by Friday 12 March with further details of when individual pupils should attend school.

Transport

Pupils who travel by school transport will continue to be able to do so. If it is necessary to alter arrangements for any pupils, parents/carers will be informed by Friday 12 March.

Face coverings are mandatory for all pupils accessing school transport.

School Meals

School meals will be available for primary pupils, and secondary pupils when they are in school at lunchtime, and those entitled will receive free school meals.

Direct payments to parents/carers of secondary pupils entitled to free school meals will continue for secondary pupils until a full time return to school is achieved.

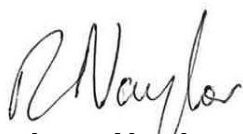
Secondary Schools - Children of Keyworkers, and Vulnerable Children

This provision will continue until Thursday, 1st April.

It is essential that children do not attend school if they are displaying symptoms of Covid-19. Everyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19 – a new, continuous cough; fever or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste - should self- isolate straight away, stay at home and arrange a test via the appropriate method.

Once again, I would like to thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, to support your child's learning. Our schools and centres are grateful for all the support you have given during the period of remote learning. We know how challenging this time has been.

Yours sincerely



Robert Naylor
Director of Children's Services