

6th August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Returning to Ferryhill Primary in August 2020

We're delighted to welcome our children back to school and want to make sure they feel safe and secure. Essential changes will be in place to reduce the transmission of COVID 19. The City of Edinburgh Council has decided the return to school will be phased 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 and all Edinburgh schools are grouping the children according to their surname over two days. Please see the following for details of your child's return to school. Please note the Council's instruction means the plan we had in place for P1 has now been over-ruled. P1s will follow the same plan as the rest of the school.

Child's surname begins	Wednesday 12 August	Thursday 13 August	Friday 14 August
A - L	<i>Start back and attend full day</i>	Do not attend	<i>Attend full day</i>
M-Z	Do not attend	<i>Start back and attend full day</i>	<i>Attend full day</i>

Changes to Minimise Spread of the Virus

To minimise the spread of the virus, we need to put changes in place. Many of these changes are not what we would want in school but we **must** follow the advice given to us by the Scottish Government. This is to promote everyone's safety.

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 parents and carers will be severely restricted to maintain the safety of everyone. Only one adult or household may be in the front entrance at the same time. Adults are asked to come into the playground only to drop off or collect their child and should not gather together in groups where the virus could potentially spread.

We need to minimise numbers arriving in the playground and so there will be a staggered start and finish to the day. Our doors will be open and children will be able to go directly to their classrooms without the need to line up outside.

- Children in P1, P2 and P3 will start at 9.00 am and finish at 2.55 pm.
- Children in P4 and P5 will start at 8.40 am and come out of school at 3.05 pm.
- Children in P6 and P7 will start at 8.50 am and come out of school at 3.15 pm.

We will not be operating a one-way system in the school because most of our classrooms join each other with no corridor in between.

Hygiene arrangements

We will continue to encourage regular handwashing when children are in school and hand sanitisers will be widely available throughout the building. Enhanced cleaning will take place daily.

Uniform

We recommend your child wears clothing that can be washed frequently and blazers or any items which require dry cleaning should not be worn to school.

Lunch Arrangements

Packed lunches will be eaten in classrooms. You can either order a packed lunch from the school or you can send one from home. Breaks and lunches will be staggered for all classes to minimise the number of children out together at the same time.

Face Coverings

We are advised that children do not need to wear face coverings in school. Staff need not wear face coverings unless they are in close proximity with a child for more than 15 minutes. However, if anyone wishes to wear a face covering then they may do so.

Equipment from Home

The school will provide a zipped pack for each child. This will contain stationery for use during the school day. Children must not bring items from home other than packed lunch box, water bottle and school bag (if needed). We have no plans for homework to be set at the start of term as our priority is to get children back and used to the school routine.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club starts again on Wednesday. If you need to book a place for your child please contact admin@ferryhill.edin.sch.uk or telephone the school on Monday or Tuesday.

Contact with Staff

You can contact us by emailing admin@ferryhill.edin.sch.uk or you can call us on 538-7382. However our staff will be taking part in essential training and preparing the classrooms and building for safe return so they may not be instantly available to respond to enquiries. We will get back to you as soon as we can.

We know 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. 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 will send you further information as this becomes available. Mrs Chapman DHT will send a further letter about how we will modify our arrangements to support our new P1 children coming to school. The information for the nursery is yet to be confirmed however it is our understanding that all returning children will be offered full time places.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stewart D Crabb', written in a cursive style.

Stewart D Crabb
Head Teacher