

11<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

You may be anxious about coming back to school. Please be reassured we are following strict guidelines to promote the highest levels of safe practice. We want our children to make as smooth a return as possible and to feel safe and happy here. We've employed additional staff for our return to school: there are extra teachers and we've allocated one Pupil Support Assistant to every classroom. All staff are here to help children and families return safely to the school routine.

Here are some further updates following meetings with our staff team. Please read this in conjunction with the information sent last week. Some of these arrangements are not of our choosing but arise out of necessity to keep everyone safe.

### **Getting To Class**

Adults should not come into the playground unless this is absolutely essential. However we realise some children will need support from a family member and are therefore not putting in place a 'blanket ban' on adults entering the playground. If adults need to come into the playground, please follow the rules on social distancing.

We do not intend that children will be lining up. On Wednesday and Thursday morning, the teachers will come out to call their classes into school. We hope from then on, children will be able to come into their classes at the allocated times. All staff will be in the playground first thing to help children find their way or support them if they need our help.

### **Primary 1**

To help our youngest school children, arrangements are slightly different. An adult may accompany each P1 child into the playground and can wait with them until the teachers come out to collect the children. Adults are not able to enter the school building. We have therefore allocated an extra teacher and additional staff to help support children into P1. We realise our new P1 children have not had the opportunity of transition and will do all we can to support them into Primary 1.

### **PE**

PE will only take place outdoors. Teachers will advise children of their day for PE and children can come to school wearing PE kit or with PE kit underneath their uniform.

## Child Who Soil Themselves

If you know your child has an issue soiling themselves, please send in a bag with additional clothing to be kept in school. We have a limited supply of clothing changes in school and if we run out then we may need to ask parents to collect their child.

## Items from Home

Children should not bring items from home other than packed lunch and water bottle. They should bring enough water to last the school day as they will be unable to refill these in school.

## Anyone Developing Symptoms

Any adult or child who develops a continuous cough or a high temperature will be sent home and must then have an NHS test. **They will not be able to return to school until they receive a negative test result.** If the test is positive, the NHS team will start the trace and contact process. If there are more than 2 positive cases then an NHS incident team will be set up to manage what happens next.

## Clothing

We intend to do more learning outdoors and windows in classrooms will be open to improve ventilation. Please make sure your child is clothed to take account of these factors. We will not be so insistent on school uniform other than football colours and inappropriate clothing being banned so please don't worry if you don't have the 'correct school uniform'.

## Exits

P1s will enter and exit from the P1 door and P2s by the P2 door. Children in the following classes will enter and leave the school by the exits allocated.

Side door	Front door
P4 Miss Cruikshank and Mrs Nicholson All P6s and P7s	P4 Mr Anderson All P3s and P5s

## Children Needing Support

We will see how our children are coping when they return to school and make adjustments to help them where necessary. We have Rainbow Room provision staffed by additional teachers if children are not able to manage their own classroom.

## **Children Needing Medication**

If your child is returning medicine to school, please hand this directly to their class teacher on their first day of school. If your child has developed a new medical condition and has been prescribed medicine please contact the school office. They will make an appointment for you to come in and complete the necessary paperwork. If a Health Care Plan is required the office will arrange for you to meet with Mrs Chapman (DHT) to discuss your child's medical needs and put a plan in place.

## **School Building**

**No adult may enter the school building** unless this is agreed with a member of staff and arrangements have been put in place to manage this. Please direct enquiries by telephone 538-7382 or email [admin@ferryhill.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ferryhill.edin.sch.uk) .

## **First Days of School**

The first days of school may prove challenging. We have lots of arrangements in place but it will take time for us all to get used to these. This is one of the reasons there is a phased return. Please work with our arrangements and bear with us as we solve the challenges that may arise.

## **Finally**

Whilst also feeling anxious, staff have found the return to routine has been positive. We hope this will be the same for children and families. Above all, we are very much looking forward to filling this building with children again. We have missed them all and can't wait to see them return.

Yours sincerely

**Stewart D Crabb**

**Head Teacher**