



4th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

RETURN TO SCHOOL LETTER AUGUST 2020 (PRIMARY CHILDREN ONLY)

First of all, I hope you and your families are safe and well. I hope you have enjoyed the summer even though it has been a very difficult time with challenging circumstances. Just before the summer holidays, the Scottish Government intimated that schools would return full-time in August as long as Covid-19 continued to be suppressed. We were pleased when the Government announcement last week that this was indeed the case and children could return to full-time education. Therefore, we will open again on **Wed 12th August**. **Mon 10th August** and **Tues 11th August** are in-service days for staff to prepare for a full-time return. Please note, there will be no in-service day on **Fri 18th September** and children will be in school on this day.

Primary 1

We are looking forward to welcoming our new P1 children. To help settle our newest members of our primary school, P1 children will attend at the following times:

- Wed 12th August: Staggered entry beginning at 9.30am (separate letter will be issued to you asap with your child's individual start time). Finishing at 12 noon.
- Thu 13th August: All P1 children will attend from 9.30am – 12 noon.
- Fri 14th August: All P1 children will attend from 9.30am – 12 noon.

On these days, P1 will be provided with a packed lunch to take home.

School Uniform and School Bags

As uniform helps to create a sense of community and equity, we are still encouraging pupils to come to school in uniform. You can purchase items of uniform online at ayrshireuniforms.co.uk/collections/gcc-primary-school. We also ask that pupils do not wear branded labels and football clothes. Since we will be utilising the outdoors more frequently, a waterproof jacket with a hood should also be worn. Please ensure your child also has a change of outdoor clothes. Please let us know if you will need help with this in any way. School bags are OK to bring to school and will be kept on your child's chair.

Start/End of the Day Procedures

To minimise congestion, we will be operating a soft start and slightly adjusted end time to our primary school day:

- P3/4, P4/5, P5/6: Entry between 8.50 and 9am, finishing at 2.40pm
- P1/2, P2, P6/7, P7: Entry between 9 and 9.10am, finishing at 2.50pm

We kindly ask you to drop your child off and leave again to ensure congestion is kept to a minimum. P1 children will follow these times week beginning Mon 17th August.

Lunchtime

Lunches will be staggered to ensure we are adhering to social distancing measures. School lunches will still be provided, and if your child is having a packed lunch, we ask for them to be brought in a disposable bag, if possible.

Water Bottles

Children should bring a filled water bottle to school every day labelled with their name.

Gym Kit

We plan to continue offering PE lessons and will promote PE outdoors as much as possible. Therefore, children should still have their gym kit on gym days which is a white/blue T-shirt or red school sports top, black/navy shorts and plimsols. Gym days will be shared with you once we are back in school.

Movement around the Building.

Although there is no need for pupils to social distance, we are required to ensure congestion is kept to a minimum. Therefore, some one-way systems will be in use and there will be different entry points to some of the classrooms. Staff will support children with this on their return to school.

Items from Home

We discourage children from bringing items from home into school eg toys and games. We have ordered enough stationery for each child to have their own pencil, rubber, sharpener, colouring pencils/pens and ruler etc in their own individual wallet. Pencil cases are allowed, however please say to your child that they cannot share items with other children.

Social Distancing in Playground

Infant parents/carers will still be allowed into the front playground of the primary school, however must ensure a 2m social distance from others and our school staff at all times.

Breakfast Club and After School Clubs

At the moment, we are unable to run the breakfast club or after school clubs for the time being.

Children Unwell at School

Adults will not be permitted inside the school without prior notice. If your child becomes unwell then you will be contacted and asked to put arrangements in place to collect your child. If your child displays Covid-19 symptoms at home, please do not send them to school.

Visitors to School

Only organised visitors, such as delivery drivers and peripatetic teachers, will be permitted entry to the school. If you require to speak to someone, please call the school office or send us an email. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

Communication

The methods we would like parents/carers to use when contacting the school are by email and phone. All letters will be sent out electronically so please make sure you have shared your most up to date email address with us. Letters will also be uploaded on the school website also to enable access.

Blended Learning

We had initially prepared for a blended learning approach to be implemented, however this is now the contingency plan if we need it.

All the staff at Garnock Community Campus are looking forward to welcoming the children back next week. We will ensure your child's wellbeing and emotional needs are top priority and support them to get back to learning in school. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to continuing our strong partnership with you. Please contact me on the email address above if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Scott McMillan
Depute Head Teacher