

8 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

**Pupils encouraged to wear additional layers in class**

You will be aware that Covid-19 is still present within our community. As the risk of transmission of the virus is greater indoors when compared to outdoor settings, the [Scottish Government currently advises:](#)

“Settings should ensure adequate levels of ventilation. Where centralised or local mechanical ventilation is present, re-circulatory systems should be adjusted to full fresh air.”

Therefore, to reduce the risk indoors, our schools are currently operating with windows open to allow as much fresh air into classrooms as possible. This is to ensure our school spaces are as safe as possible for our pupils and staff.

As there is a need to prioritise infection control over thermal comfort, we are encouraging children to wear an additional fleece or a jacket in the classroom if they wish to do so. We have relaxed dress codes in our schools as we try to make the learning environment as comfortable as possible while reducing the risk of infection in the school setting.

We will continue to work hard across the school estate to improve heating output at all our schools, but we realise this may not provide the expected levels of comfort. It is hoped that the Scottish Government will provide further guidance prior to the arrival of winter as the science evolves around the current Covid-19 crisis.

The Council is continuing to work closely with Public Health in relation to all health matters and be directed by national guidance. You can view our webpage [www.highland.gov.uk/backtoschool](http://www.highland.gov.uk/backtoschool) for updates, advice, and access to our frequently asked questions document which is reviewed regularly. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your school.

Yours faithfully



Nicky Grant  
Executive Chief Officer