

## Lochardil Primary School

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Emergency closure 0800 5642272

School pin number 04 2500.



05.01.2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,  
Happy New Year everyone!

We very much look forward to seeing you all and starting our 2021 year together, either face to face for some or online for the majority until Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021.

You will read the update within the letter published on our Blog tonight from Highland Council regarding the reopening of schools and ELC following the First Minister's recent announcement i.e. the country has moved to National Lockdown.

Given the significant move from the previous announcement and arrangements made prior to schools closing for the holidays, I would like to bring your attention to a few points regarding the provision of our childcare & learning -

- **School building re-opens from tomorrow.** There will be **provision of absolute essential childcare** for children of key workers (both or lone parents must be considered a key worker – see appendix in previous letter for criteria) and those we have been in touch with prior to the holidays. This will be **from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January.**
- **New term will start from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021** for all pupils. **Online learning** will commence from this date **until the proposed date of Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February** as per Scottish Government guidelines. We will review this in line with any Scot Gov announcement updates made regarding education provision in Scotland and share asap. During this period of online learning we will also **offer provision for children of key workers (as above) and also those we have been in touch with already.** As mentioned previously this may not be their usual teacher but will be a staff member, as they will follow the online learning as set out for all our children both within the building and at home.

As ever, I would like to reiterate the importance of keeping safe and well during this time. Please do not let previous experiences of Lockdown worry you to the detriment of keeping both your own family and every other family safe. You will be aware of the significant increase of coronavirus cases within our Highland area, specifically within our catchment and neighbouring catchment areas. This really is a time to lockdown and do everything you possibly can to ensure you know your child is the safest they can possibly be i.e. within your own home. However, if we are your only option we will be there to provide for your child. Please ensure you are following the Scot. Gov. FACTS guidelines with no exceptions! If you know you have not managed to follow this guidance **DO NOT** send your child to our campus until you are sure they are safe to be there with others. Particularly now this new strain is infecting so rapidly and often asymptotically.

Thank you to everyone who completed our Google survey on the last day of term (or have emailed/ called) to aide us with gauging numbers for our return. If you have returned to say you are not able to have the extended holiday i.e. the remainder of this week, and require childcare, please send your child to school as outlined in my previous letter dated 22.12.2020 as we can provide for your childcare needs.

Unfortunately, we have a significant number of pupils requiring childcare and to be placed in school from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January so we **may need to reissue a more detailed Google form** to ensure we can accommodate everyone safely and in line with our risk assessment as the numbers are currently within the 100s. With the change in Scot Gov to move to Lockdown this changes our original plans from pre-Christmas. If changes are required and we do need to reissue the form we will share this before the end of the week, send out the email and texts to ensure you are all aware and informed. The survey will close at 5pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January. If you no longer require your child to be in school and have made alternative arrangements, please contact the school office from tomorrow or email the school inbox so we have this up to date information.

We 100% trust every one of our parents/carers to keep us safe as a staff and a school, be honest with us, and would like to thank you for having our strong relationship and genuine respect for each other and our community. Please feel reassured by our values that we live and breathe Lochardil life through daily, and our integrity. We will continue to provide the best level of care and education for all our children, and aim to maintain the safety and wellbeing of all.

Please continue to communicate with us if you need to get in touch as we are all still very much working, and will continue to work with yourselves as our partners to ensure the best for our young people.

With my heartfelt hope that everyone can continue to stay well, please look after each other, lean on each other if and when needed, stay strong, and continue to be the best we can all be.

Thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Audrey Kellacher', written in a cursive style.

Audrey Kellacher  
Head Teacher