



Lochardil Primary School
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Dear Parents/ Carers,

I am sure you are as equally excited about the latest Scottish Government announcement and recent parental letter from our Executive Chief Officer Nicky Grant, sharing pupils in P4-7 will return to the school campus from Monday 15th March. We are delighted to have our ELC – P3 pupils back with us already and this has gone smoothly to date with both children and staff settling well back into routines and enjoying seeing everyone.

Information for our whole school being back together from Monday -

Campus

Risk Assessment mitigations are in place and will continue to be implemented as originally set out from the beginning of the session.

- The school day will follow the same pattern as always with P1-P3 9am-2.45pm and P4-P7 8.50am-3pm. P1s will be ready at the gate for pick up from 2.40pm to avoid the P2s & P3s all exiting at the same time. Please note your P1 child will not leave until they see the person to collect them so do not worry if you can only arrive for 2.45pm.
- Classes are bubbled per class indoors, and share a playground area outdoors per year group.
- Breakfast Club and Out of School Care will be available for all pupils from Monday 15th March. At present our Breakfast club numbers are restricted to 20 due to staffing requirements and we hope to be able to increase to our usual 33 asap.
- Lunches – 1 hot meal option and 1 cold option available. Both halls are continuing in use to accommodate the classes in their year group bubbles safely.
- Playground Organisation – The year groups continue to have their own areas of the playground. The timetable rotates to allow each year group to experience different areas of the school. We have been keeping our children in year group bubbles outdoors to support Covid-19 mitigations and to assist should we need to implement a plan for a positive case.
- Lunch time and after school clubs have still not been able to run and we have no timeline for such to begin as yet.
- After school activities - There are currently still no lets permitted at school so no activities from external providers.
- We encourage use of sustainable modes of travel and mindful parking where use of a vehicle is required.
- All parents/carers are reminded to follow the Scottish Government F.A.C.T.S guidance. Wear a face covering, maintain 2m social distancing, avoid gathering opportunities, and adhere to only one parent/carer dropping off or picking up. You will also have noticed we have new banners at our gates and displayed at the entrance points highlighting the key points to keep yourself and our community safe.

Reminder - Pupils are not permitted to arrive early in the school grounds unless booked in for Breakfast Club or through prior arrangement. Equally, hanging around at the end of the day after the school bell. No children should be playing on the grass pitch or Trim Trail prior to the school morning bell, or after the school bell at the end of the day to keep our bubbles intact.

Curriculum

As a school we have spent time considering what our narrative will be and ensuring it is from a positive perspective placing value on what our children have learned, gained and achieved while learning at home, rather than using terminology such as 'lost', 'catch up' or 'recovery'.

After the First Minister's announcement this week, HC have shared in their recent letter -

"The initial focus for children returning to school will be on reconnecting with learning, friends and routine, supporting wellbeing and ensuring the transition back to school runs smoothly. Children will receive all the support they need as they adjust to being back in school, reconnecting socially with friends and school staff."

Key principles outlined by Highland Council as a focus for our pupils' return -

- Wellbeing
- Socialisation and routine
- Outdoor learning

In addition to the previous focus Literacy, Numeracy and HWB.

We will support these key principles by -

- Continuing to ensure Learning for Sustainability including UNCRC children's rights and Global Goals are at the heart of our curriculum. We have planned a whole school theme to get all children actively involved in global citizenship i.e. Send My Friend

to School campaign, local garden mural design and also to engage with our partnership school Mwenje PS in Malawi. Our whole school focus to collaborate and share learning supports community and builds culture and sense of belonging.

- HWB in particular a focus on mental wellbeing will continue to be priority for all classes using
 - Emotion Works strategies
 - SHANARRI wellbeing wheels
 - Resilient Kids framework
 - Mindfulness approach
- Socialisation and routine
 - Pupil Voice – children will have opportunities to truly share experiences and views on their experiences and use such to shape the learning and teaching for the remainder of this term and term ahead.
 - Review and update Class Charters in line with UNCRC, and practise school and class routines.
 - Opportunities for play, fun and self-regulation strategies.
 - Recognise experiences that have perhaps been unavailable to our children during Lockdown such as being with a number of others and having to use social skills such as sharing, turn taking, working with others and spending time with others, plan for learning, relearning and overlearning such skills.
- Outdoor learning will continue to take the learning outdoors and equally focus on Outdoor Learning skills i.e. through continued 'Explore' sessions, engagement with our local environment and what our immediate and surrounding community has to offer or what we can contribute.
- Finally, Literacy and Numeracy will permeate throughout all of the above, while also being taught discretely to give our learners context for learning and using such vital knowledge and skills. Our other curricular areas will develop through our IDL themes, and creativity will continue to inspire and engage our young people with their learning.
- Continuing to offer creative opportunities for Parental Engagement (all ideas welcome!)
- Have fun!

Top tips –

- Clean uniform daily.
- Take minimal belongings and leave toys at home.
- Bring water bottles, snacks, pencil cases etc. in school bag.
- Dress appropriately for the weather conditions i.e. waterproof jacket, sensible footwear, change of clothes for the infants.
- Current restrictions mean that all PE lessons will take place outside. Miss Barclay our PE teacher and the class teachers will continue to aim for the pupils 2hrs of planned PE experiences per week. Please consider appropriate clothing for the children to change into to wear when exercising outdoors during this time of year.
- Hand cream for any wee hands needing TLC after returning to the strict handwashing and sanitising routine throughout the day every day.
- Top up school meal accounts (P4-P7's)
- Drop off/ Collect & Go! Keep the carpark path free, and carpark only for staff use/ permitted cars.
- Only ELC parents/carers within the grounds for drop offs/collection.
- Contact our school office to make an appointment with the class teacher if required, continue to communicate with us as your voice as a parent/carer is so important.
- Always #ChooseKind

Finally, thank you to Mr Grant for continually taking pride in his work and ensuring we have a safe, well maintained building and environment for us to return to and learn within. Also to our cleaners for keeping our building as safe and clean as possible during very challenging times, and cooks for keeping everyone fed. I would like to say a huge heartfelt thanks to all our leadership team, teachers, PSAs, EYPs & OoSC team for their incredible hard work yet again to move to providing education online in a creative and stimulating way to keep our learners engaged with high quality learning provision and connection offered, whilst also this time juggling with physical face to face schooling/childcare for our keyworker children, and managing their own personal lives, commitments and experiences.

This Lockdown has certainly been challenging in many ways for many people, and with the incredible teamwork, thoughtfulness, and respect for each other, our school and community has continued to thrive and stay together during a time we had to keep apart. We aim to 'Rise Up rather than Catch Up' and together we can definitely continue to do this!

Thanks for keeping us safe, trusting us, and supporting us throughout this school session so far. As you know, our children are our common purpose, common reason to always go above and beyond, and our inspiration to keep leading and living through our values!

Thanks



Audrey Kellacher
Head Teacher