



Education Services

Kilncraigs, Greenside Street, Alloa, FK10 1EB

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Our Ref: LS / NW

Your Ref: -

Date: 19th June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your patience and support over the last few weeks and months. For the majority of you, being at home and supporting your children to continue their learning at home, alongside your own work and wellbeing, is a significant challenge in what are extremely difficult times.

However, we do know that this has helped to reduce the spread of the virus and is helping to save lives. While it's a very unsettling time for us all, rest assured that we are doing everything we can to make sure that when we reopen schools and education facilities in August, it is safe to do so and is in line with Scottish Government advice and guidance.

As ever the health and safety of our children, young people and all staff remains our main priority. Over the last few weeks we have been working on detailed phasing plans for reopening schools which has been done in partnership with staff, parent councils and youth groups. However, I must stress that these plans will have to be adapted as and when Scottish Government guidance changes.

As you can imagine, this has been a very challenging task. Every education facility in Clackmannanshire has been risk assessed by the Council's Health and Safety Team to ensure that it is a COVID secure facility as per Scottish Government guidance.

Each building is unique and presents its own challenge. Some buildings are new while others are older with smaller learning spaces. Because of this we have had to adapt individual plans to accommodate the 2m physical distancing arrangement in all schools.

Transportation has also been an issue. To ensure physical distancing, capacity on buses has reduced to meet current guidelines which mean fewer children will be able to travel by bus. We hope that active travel options such as walking and cycling to school can be expanded.

You will be contacted by your child/ren's school or nursery at the latest by Wednesday 24th June with arrangements for your child/ren. However I must make you aware that attending school and nursery for your child/ren in August will not be as it was before. Following Scottish Government guidelines and advice, children and young people will be in school for less time than before, at least initially.



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For Clackmannanshire Education, this is going to be 50% of the week. Early Years and Senior Phase may vary and your nursery or school will provide further details.

Precautions we will be taking include:

- Limiting class sizes to adhere with current Scottish Government distancing guidelines
- Children in the Early Years will work together in small groups
- Staggering break times, and pick-up and drop-off times
- Increased cleaning and awareness of handwashing
- Keeping pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home

While we appreciate that reduced face to face contact with teaching staff will be a cause for concern, we are already working on plans to increase this as soon as the Scottish Government guidance allows. The safety of your children will remain at the forefront of any changes to these plans.

In the meantime, our home/online learning will be a key support to pupils when they return to school. Our Flipped Learning has been developed over the last year to help engage young people who are unable to manage full-time education. This model has been researched and planned with a wide range of partners across our Education Service. The current circumstances have provided us with an opportunity to enhance this.

We aim to:

- Work with key strategic partners to enhance the in-school learning experience as much as possible, in particular partnerships with MCR Pathways, Columba 1400, Duke of Edinburgh, Forth Valley College and local employers.
- Maximise the use of our many Outdoor Learning spaces, particularly for early years and primary children, which are rich sources of learning.
- Establish a blended learning approach in each of our primary schools which is a combination of classroom based learning and home based learning coordinated by the school.
- Provide wellbeing support for children and young people to re-integrate back into school and make progress in their learning.

We appreciate that this is a lot of information to take on board and we know that you will have many questions. We are working with the Parent Council Chairs to produce a Q&A document which we hope will answer any concerns you may have about the decisions we have had to take. This will be available on 24th June and the Education Service will be available throughout the summer to answer parents' questions and concerns.

Again, I would like to thank you for your understanding as we work together to navigate through this difficult time. I am continuing to monitor the situation which is changing very quickly and I will continue to keep you updated about the latest developments.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely



**Clackmannanshire
Council**

www.clacks.gov.uk

Comhairle Siorrachd
Chlach Mhanann

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorraine Sanda".

**Lorraine Sanda
Chief Education Officer**