

Question for Recovery to School (in no particular order of importance!)

Please be aware nothing has been finalised as of yet and is dependent on many factors still to be agreed.

Questions from Parents:

Our focus on return will be on health and wellbeing, re-establishing relationships, nurture and pupil voice. We then have a recovery curriculum for numeracy and literacy to follow which will help us identify and close gaps in learning at each stage. This is tied in with child development and clear research on learning, teaching and assessment. There is further support for play as well. It is also backed up with support for home learning which the government are due to announce how they will support also. These are all in English and Gaelic Medium.

Following government advice, stringent hand washing and 2m distancing will be adhered to as much as possible throughout the building. Working with NHS to get handwash and drying that is better for children's skin but, still within safety requirements.

With 120 children enrolled for next session, we are working to tie in with families, community, partners, cleaning, catering and transport. We will not be able to provide answers for all families but, will try to provide information that allows you to work with your employers, families and friends to arrange appropriate child care and return to work where possible maintaining safety and following government and council regulations at all times.

The parent and pupil consultations have given us good information and thoughts to help us plan and prepare. We had 32 responses to the main one, 11 to the P7 one and 8 to the new P1 one and incorporated questions below.

Although nothing is final yet, at the moment we are looking at splitting year groups with one group coming on a Monday and Tuesday and one group on a Wednesday and Thursday. This then gives Friday for planning and preparation as well as to support online learning. It also gives a 72 hour period in the school to provide an extra security against the virus. Online learning support expectations and discussions with High School may dictate times (thoughts?) We also do not have our staffing or support allocations which may affect this as have a vacancy.

1. How do we make drop off/pick up safe – are children allowed to travel to school without an adult? One adult only dropping child off – set times for this? Parents will be asked not to gather at entrance or wait. Only P1 parents will be allowed to accompany children into the playground. We were thinking straight into classroom through fire exit – no bells. *Thoughts on staggered start and siblings? End of day is a problem as well? Younger children collection?*
Thinking of opening both gates and those that live on the Balmacaan Road side of the school leave by that entrance and those that live on the other side by main entrance. Parking would be down at the park for those on the Balmacaan side.
2. How do we make the classroom safe for the children and staff? 2m rule in place. Stringent hand washing first and foremost and enhanced cleaning.
3. How do we make the playground safe? Set areas for each class. Maintain 2m rule. Collating games to share with staff that allow for social distancing to continue.
4. Can we expect children to understand social distancing and how do we explain it without causing worry or stress? *Use of books available from various authors to support this. Home measuring ideas – what is 2m?*

5. How can children learn online if they do not have a device or internet access at home?
Very few children who this applies to – considering current options and government support to get online.
6. Will school lunches be available or will it be packed lunch only? Don't know yet.
7. Which age group would be most likely to benefit from more in school classes and less online work? Equitable? Have been asked to keep it equitable for each stage - consultation with area office around Gaelic.
8. What do I do if I need my child to be in school because I have to go to work? Will give as much information as we can to allow parents to make arrangements.
9. Will the school term dates be the same for 2020/21? Already know expectation is for all schools to return on 11th August if safe to do so - August 11th will be an Inset day - first week induction then starting properly with timetable following week. Still to negotiate when lost week of holiday will be given.
10. What is the future for any school trip or activity like swimming for example? Will not go ahead until safe for social distancing to be lifted.
11. For GME children and their new teacher is this a class that would be best supported within school especially if parents have no Gaelic knowledge? Will be guided by Highland Council?
12. To what extent individual schools will have the discretion to find their own solutions? School will be given a toolkit that they can adapt to suit their own circumstances and contexts.
13. Is the ambition to fully maintain social distancing in the classroom and playground? A 2m distance has to be maintained in the classroom and playground.
14. What would a "blended" approach to returning to school mean in GUPS? What would be the logistics? Sending kids half time each day or sending them only half the days of the week? Number of children school can accommodate, staffing, cleaning - guided by Highland Council.
15. If part time could we stick to whole days as this is easier for parents who work, also could siblings attend same days? It is our intention to try to have siblings attend on same days where possible but, may not be easy due to staggered starts etc - thoughts on this? Whole days will depend on Highland Council - thinking 2pm/3pm finish at the moment to allow cleaners in (staff to be out of building half an hour after children.) It may be that this is determined by cleaning services/support for online learning. Also have to consider what whole day in school will mean for children - long time in a 2m bubble. Thoughts?
16. Will children be able to stay with their friends? First looking at sibling groups and think I can manage this apart from classes that are sharing the same space e.g. hall then, speaking with teachers about best groupings for friendships and academic needs.
17. Will we have family groups in the same day as nursery and High School? - it will not be possible to do this across the three dynamics but, will try within our school to have siblings in on the same day where possible.
18. Will wrap around care be available? That will be dependent on government advice (came out today saying no afterschool or breakfast clubs will be in school buildings), the Glenurquhart Care Centre and their capacity.
19. Will younger children be given a chromebook eg P4 and above? No intention for this at present.

20. Could we use other local schools with capacity to give more children more time at school? No - other schools will be looking at their capacity so this is unlikely.
21. Are you planning to open as a HUB for keyworkers? We do not have information on keyworker children and how they will be supported on return to school.
22. What will happen if children are affected by self isolating because of track and trace? They will be expected to self isolate according to guidelines. Parents should follow medical advice if your children or someone in your household falls in any of these categories. The distance learning needs of these children will be taken into consideration.
23. Is returning to school compulsory if your child or member of your household is shielding or vulnerable due to health issues? As above.
24. Gaelic medium parents have been informed Vicki is being made redundant and there will be no Gaelic nursery. They are concerned GME may be mothballed again and would like reassurance. We have a Gaelic teacher and class. I am not aware of any plans to mothball GME with us. Nursery is due simply to accommodation not being available.
25. Support for ASN - will work with parents and partners to develop a plan that best suits the needs of these children. Will be flexible and open as far as possible in this - providing visual as much as possible. Hope to arrange online meeting with ASN children's parents and partners before end of term/very early in new term.
26. Transition - we are lucky with P1 transition programme that all children (apart from possibly some placing requests) have visited P1 every month since August (and sometimes before) as well as, Mr MacLeod and myself visiting nursery regularly. In this way, Mr MacLeod knows nearly all the children and they have been in the school setting. We recognise this will be different on their return and hope to provide a video tour of the school for everyone prior to the summer (still setting up.)
Similarly, with P7, the children have had regular visits to the High School and have met teachers through Google Meets and during these visits. Packs have been sent to parents to support.
Goodbyes/ seeing siblings - children are not allowed to visit other settings and staff are where possible, not to go between schools in the same day. This makes saying goodbye more difficult. This is similar for teachers and children between classes therefore, seeing siblings in school is unlikely (P1s). Ideas?
27. Uniform / clothing - to be washed after each day - P1s looking forward to wearing uniform therefore, still going to ask for this. Thoughts?
28. Masks - government have said that they do not expect children or teachers to wear masks except in PPE situations as previously.
29. Collecting personal items - have now agreed risk assessment for this - explain process - thinking last week of term as waiting to hear about whether P7 should return chromebooks or not.