**Newbattle Community High School - Parent Council Zoom Meeting**

**17th June 2020**

# Present Apologies

# C Park Parent J McGhie

# A Westaby Parent K Maynard

# P McIntosh Parent A Donaldson

# G McMillan Head Teacher S Fairley

# M Hume Depute Head Teacher

# C Philp Depute Head Teacher

# M Davidson Depute Head Teacher

# J Fair Depute Head Teacher

# M Leslie Teacher

# L MacLeod Clerk

**Welcome and Thanks**

Gib wanted his thanks to Parents/Carers noted again during this time.

**School Recovery – G McMillan**

* Gib talked through how Newbattle has supported the Community during the pandemic.
* In order to support the wellbeing of staff, they will be taking their full holiday entitlement so no work will be sent home for pupils during this period.
* There is a proposal with the Director of Education, Fiona Robertson on how we see things moving forward in August. Hopefully by this point we will be in phase 3.

The first two weeks, we envisage looking like the following:

**Week Commencing 10th August (Week 1):**

**Monday & Tuesday** – Staff Inservice Days

**Wednesday & Thursday** – New S1 Induction Days

**Friday** – Flexible Friday – possibly S6 pupils, along with our more vulnerable pupils and key worker’s children.

**Week Commencing 17th August (Week 2):**

We will encourage small house groups to come in during this week.

**Week Commencing 24th August (Week 3 Onwards):**

**Monday & Tuesday** – Half our Senior Phase pupils, along with half our BGE pupils.

**Wednesday & Thursday** – The other half of the Senior Phase pupils along with the other half of the BGE group.

**Friday** – Still known as Flexible Friday. This may be a mix of pupils who are disengaged, vulnerable, senior phase – this is still to be worked out.

Period times will change, so we will have 6 periods a day:

Two periods, then break. Another two periods, then lunch. Then the final two periods before pupils leave for home.

Period times will be increased to 1 hour. Over the course of the two days, senior pupils will receive 2 periods for every chosen subject.

We can fit 800 pupils in the school at 2 metres apart, however we don’t want to do this. We also need to consider that not all teachers will be working as some will be shielding etc. The above model will still work with 50% staff at a push. We are currently looking at siblings being in the building at the same time to support transport.

*Question* – When will this information of recovery be shared with parents?

*Answer* – As part of the Midlothian Promise, all information will be shared with Midlothian families at the same time. We hope this to be within the next week.

*Question* – Will buses still be provided for transport to and from school?

*Answer* – Yes, there will be buses however we’re not sure yet how this will look. At the moment, the numbers suggest that there would only be 11 pupils allowed per bus, and then the bus would have to be deep cleaned afterwards so cannot return to collect additional passengers. We are hoping that the numbers will be different come August.

**Blended Learning – Jim Fair**

* Jim and Crawford have been looking into the Learning & Teaching aspect from other countries to see what model would work the best within Newbattle. The ‘Blended Learning’ approach has shown to be the most effective. This will work in the following way:

High quality work will continue to be set by teachers on Google Classroom. Pupils will attempt this work at home. They will then come into school and their teachers can talk through the subject and answer any questions they may have.

* A survey will be coming out later this week for opinions on this, and also for parents to provide some feedback on the quality of work set by teachers.

*Catherine commented that the work set by teachers was of good quality.*

*Pam thinks blended learning will work a lot better.*

National figures show that only 60% of teachers have been making contact with pupils and only 55% of parents are helping their children with school work.

**Health and Safety – Mark Davidson**

* SLT have been meeting with small groups of staff in school to talk through the Health & Safety plans for our return in August. They have been talking through risk assessments, hygiene, role modelling for our pupils, making sure everyone understands that each persons’ experience to this is different from the other etc.

*Question* – Will face coverings be essential?

*Answer* – No. Face coverings can be worn if preferred. They will have to be worn by some individuals within the school ie. First Aiders etc but they are not essential for everyone.

*Question* – Will uniform still be required?

*Answer* – There is changing guidance on uniform and we still haven’t made a decision on this yet. All Midlothian schools will follow guidance from the authority on this. We suspect that is will be a more relaxed school dress code, but will wait until further guidance is shared. School uniform is a safety measure for our pupils, so they can be recognised within a Community Campus, however there will be no parents or public in the building so this should not be as much of an issue.

*Question* – Will there be more Hand Sanitizers available?

*Answer* – Pupils will be expected to sanitise their hands on the way in and out of the building. There will be regular opportunities to wash hands throughout the day. We are also looking at hand sanitization stations as the amount of pupils allowed in the toilet/sink area will be reduced also.

The Health & Safety that Mark has put together for Newbattle has been shared across the authority.

**Thanks**

Gib wanted parents to pass on his thanks to pupils for their hard work, and let them know that we are missing them.