

**NEWTONGRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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**EDUCATION DIVISION**

Head Teacher  
Miss V Morgan



**Midlothian**



Our Ref:



16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Planning for June and August 2020**

I hope you are all well and managing in these challenging circumstances. I know with two weeks to go until the end of term that there will be some anxiety around what happens next. I would like to reassure you that while we have had to prioritise arrangements for children transitioning to Primary 1 and High School, we are also currently planning for the transition of children at all stages in our school.

The planning process is far from straightforward and while I may share plans with you, please be aware that these **may** have to be altered dependent on Scientific, Health, Scottish Government and Midlothian guidance.

Further guidance about specific arrangements for August will follow. However, you will know from the media that this will be a 'blended model' where children will learn some of the time at school and some of the time at home. We will be planning around sibling groups across Nursery – Primary 7. There is also likely to be a commitment to continue to support Category 1 and 2 keyworkers.

From Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June, most staff are in school and planning classroom and teaching spaces to meet current guidelines for August. In the final week staff will be arranging to pass on transition information. We will be welcoming our new Primary 1 children to introduce them to the building and adults in school. We will also have the opportunity to welcome back our Primary 7 children for their final visit. We are very much looking forward to this. In order to meet social distancing guidance these activities will take place over a number of days that week.

Throughout these two weeks the Hub for keyworkers remains at Goreglen Primary School and will be supported by staff, including members of the Newtongrange team.

While staff will still be scheduling learning tasks on Google Classroom and Seesaw for nursery children during this period, authority guidance is that there should be a relaxation in terms of expectation in order that transitions and planning for August can take place.

### **Staffing Update**

The end of a school session and the start of new one always brings some changes within the staff team. We bid a fond farewell to Miss Holly Robertson. She has had a successful NQT year and we wish her well with her future teaching career. We also say farewell to Ms Belinda Cook, we wish her well as she moves onto new adventures. We thank them all for their hard work, contributions and commitment to Newtongrange Primary School. Mrs Katie McNeill will start her maternity leave at the end of term. We wish Mrs McNeill all the best with her new arrival and very much look forward to seeing her again soon.

Next session we are looking forward to welcoming Miss Hannah Laidler, Miss Chelsea Kerr, Miss Lyndsey Duncan and Mr Stefano Peccerillo as new members of our teaching staff. Mrs Lyndsay Mitchell will also be returning from her maternity leave.

Our proposed class structure for next session will be 14 classes; therefore, the formation of some classes will need to be composite. The allocations of learners to classes will be in accordance with Education, Communities and Economy policies of the formation composite classes (Parents guide can be accessed on our school website).

The class structure, teachers and classroom are detailed below for session 2020-2021. Children moving into P1/2 and P2 will receive additional information regarding which class their child will be in.

Current Class	New Class	Teacher
	P1A	Miss Laidler
	P1B	Miss Brown
P1A	P1/2	Miss Mullen
P1B	P2	Miss Hunter
P1/2	P2/3	Miss Kerr
P2	P3A	Miss Bell
P2/3	P3/4	Mrs Thomson and Mrs Burrell
P3	P4	Mrs H Thomson and Mrs S Thomson
P3/4	P4/5	Miss Duncan
P4	P5	Ms Wardlaw
P5A	P6A	Mr Watters
P5B	P6B	Mr Thomson
P6A	P7A	Mrs McGurn
P6B	P7B	Mr Peccerillo
	NCCT	Mr Lyall
	Nurture/ HWB Support	Mrs Burrell 0.5FTE
	SfL	Mrs Istephan and Mrs Mitchell

As you will appreciate, preparing for next session is challenging given the current pandemic. We **may** need to move to a model of teaching teams at each stage to provide the flexibility that could be required to support learning 'in home' and 'in school'. This would allow for a model where children will be supported in school by a few key adults. This will minimise any impact upon learning experiences if an allocated teacher is not able to return to work in August or if a teacher becomes unwell. When we know more about how schools will reopen, and how the blended model of learning will be structured, we will communicate further information to you.

Your child's new teacher will post a welcome letter within your child's current Google Classroom and the school website by the end of this week. We thank you for your ongoing support and we look forwards to welcoming your child back to school in August.

An individual letter will follow for children in our current P1 classes informing them of the classes they will move into in Primary 2 following the need to composite.

Nursery staffing updates and plans for next session will be shared with you as they become available.

Thank you for everything you continue to do to support our school, we are so proud of your children. We appreciate your continued understanding during this challenging time. Particular thanks for positive emails, cards and feedback for staff who are doing an amazing job in very difficult circumstances.

Kind regards

Miss Vicky Morgan  
Head Teacher