Midlothian

ST MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
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St Mary's RC Primary
Bonnyrigg

18th February 2021

PARTIAL RE-0PENING OF SCHOOLS

Dear Parents and Carers

Further to the First Minister's announcement yesterday, we are delighted that current scientific evidence now confirms we can move forward to allow the full time return to Early Learning and Childcare and P1-3 children to schools and ELC settings from Monday 22nd February.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELC

- Nursery children will return in two Bubble Groups – Hedgehogs and Squirrels **PLEASE NOTE** that as our numbers have increased and we have some staff off shielding, your child may be in a different bubble group than before Christmas and may also have a different key worker.
- Only one adult should come into the school grounds to drop off at Nursery and must wear a face mask and maintain 2m distancing from other children and adults.
- ELC staff will be at the Nursery door and the Garden gate and will advise which group your child is in and which entrance you should collect from.
- ELC times are as before with a choice of 8.30am or 8.45am start time but you must let the school know which option you are using.
  MON – THURS 8.30AM – 3PM OR 8.45AM – 3.15PM
  FRI 8.30AM – 12.30PM OR 8.45AM – 12.45PM

ARRANGEMENTS FOR P1-3

- P1 – P3 pupils should arrive at school as close to 9am as possible to be dropped off at the school gate. **THIS WILL BE A STRICT DROP AND GO POLICY.** Please do not wait by the gates as we are trying to avoid any congestion and mixing of households. A Learning Assistant will be in the playground to meet the children and show them where to line up.
- **At the end of the day Parents of pupils in P1 & P2 may come in to the top playground to wait for their child – please wear a mask and maintain a 2m distance from other households. The children will be brought to you in the playground. One adult per household only please. Pick up time is 3.30pm and 12.15pm on a Friday.**
- P3 will be dismissed from the school gate – please arrange a suitable place to meet your child or be visible at the fence but maintain a distance from other households.

P4-P7 KEY WORKER AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN BUBBLE

- Pupils who are registered for a space should continue to attend as they have been, lining up in the playground in the morning and will be dismissed at the end of the day from the gates.

REMOTE LEARNING

For those year groups who will still learn from home, teachers will continue to deliver remote learning experiences based on children's current learning targets. We still have a number of pupils who have not engaged with remote learning and have not been submitting work. There is a minimum expectation of Literacy, Numeracy and two other pieces of work to be completed each day over the course of a week, in all classes. Could parents please contact the school by email if they are experiencing difficulties with this.

RISK ASSESSMENT
As before, all schools and ELC settings have been risk assessed with colleagues from our Health and Safety service, with enhanced health and safety measures and protocols put in place that follow the current public health and government guidance.

These include observing the age-appropriate physical distancing measures outlined by current government guidance as well as public health advice to help reduce the spread of the virus, guidance on handwashing and hygiene, use of PPE, updated fire safety arrangements and use of transport.

LFD TESTING

All staff who work in school have been issued with LFD testing kits. The expectation is that staff will at home test twice a week and record results online. This includes catering, janitors, cleaners, Crossing Patrol Staff. All senior phase pupils will also be issued with at home tests. Schools will be recording the distribution of these kits following government guidance.

CLEANING
Every school will continue to have an enhanced cleaning regime in place, with staff on duty throughout the school day. Toilets, door handles, bannisters and other surfaces in constant use will be cleaned on a rotational basis to ensure the highest possible levels of cleanliness.

TRANSPORT/SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL
School transport will continue to run as normal and there will continue to be crossing patrols in place for those who have been asked to attend, or who have a critical childcare space.

SCHOOL LUNCHES
Key worker and vulnerable children who attend school will continue to be provided with a school lunch. BACS will continue to be paid to those from P4 upwards who are entitled to Free School Meals for financial reasons. Further information about Free School Meals during this period can be found here:

https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/855/school_meals/117/free_school_meals_and_clothing_grants/3

We would like to thank you for your continued support as we develop our plans following this very recent announcement. We will keep you updated with any further information via our usual channels of communication.

Yours sincerely

Liz Laird
Head Teacher