Dear Parent/Carer

We hope this finds you well and you have had a restful summer. We are really looking forward to welcoming your children back to school on **Wednesday 12th August**. Having been away for a considerable period of time we recognise that there will be a range of emotions within the school community, however, we aim to make the transition as smooth as possible. In order to do this we have had to make some changes to the school environment and systems.

**What to Bring to School**

* **A pencil case** that can be left in school – pencils, rubber, sharpener, ruler and colouring pens and/or pencils
* **A water bottle**
* **A packed lunch** (no lunches will be served in school until after the September break at the earliest. This includes P1-P3 who would usually receive free meals). BACS payments will continue for those who receive free school meals.
* No PE kits – on the day your child has PE they can come to school wearing it.
* Most cloakrooms will not be in use, children will hang their coats on the back of their chair and tuck their schoolbag under the table.
* Children should not bring any toys/footballs for the classroom or playground into school.

**School Uniform**

* There will be a relaxed approach to dress code to allow for regular washing of clothes. This will be revised and updated after the September break.
* You may wish to still send your child in school uniform.
* No football strips please.

**General Hygiene**

* We are well stocked with soap and hand sanitiser. Children will wash their hands whenever they exit or enter their classroom or the school building.
* All classes will be cleaned at the end of each day.
* A cleaner will be in school from 10.00am – 2.00pm regularly sanitising door handles, light switches etc

**Medication**

If your child requires medication in school time please follow the information below:

1. Medical forms will be available on the front door of the school in poly pockets on Monday the 10th and Tuesday 11th August.
2. Take relevant forms home to fill in and sign.
3. Place completed forms and medicine in a sealed carrier bag.
4. On Wednesday 12th August there will be a member of staff outside the front door between 8.45am and 9.15am to receive the sealed bags.

\*Please note we are unable to administer any medicine to your child without medical forms in place.

**Procedures on Entering the School Grounds and Building – See map attached**

* To enable social distancing parents/carers of children from **P4 – P7** will NOT be able to enter the school grounds. Parents/carers of children in **P1-P3** MUST socially distance at all times with other adults in the school grounds. To avoid congestion and to facilitate social distancing of 2 metres, please adhere to the signage in the playground.
* The school gates will open at 8.35am.
* From Wednesday 12th until Friday 14th **P1** children will begin school at 9.30am, we would respectfully ask you not to enter the grounds before 9.25am.

From Monday the 17th they will start at 8.50-9.00am.

* Children in **P1 – P7** will enter their classrooms through the assigned points (see map).
* Children in **P1 – P7** can enter the building through their assigned points any time between 8.50am and 9.00am.
* Children will not be marked ‘late’ until after 9am, if they will be any later than 9.15am please phone the school to make arrangements for entry.
* Unfortunately we cannot welcome parents and carers into the school building at the moment, enquiries should be made in the first instance through email: strathesk\_ps@midlothian.gov.uk or if you prefer you may call the school on 0131 271 4705

**Procedures on Exiting the School Grounds and Building**

* To avoid congestion at the end of the day we have slightly altered the finishing times of some year groups.

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Monday-Thursdays** | **Fridays** |
| **P1** | 12noon for Week 1 only3.05pm wef 17/8/20  | 12 noon for Week 1 only12.15 wef 21/8/20 |
| **P2 and P7** | 3.10pm | 12.20pm |
| **P3-6** | 3.15pm | 12.25pm  |

* Children need to leave the school grounds immediately at the end of the day and go straight home.

**Questions you may have?**

**Will it be too congested without a staggered start?**

We are in a fortunate position at Strathesk to have many entry points into the building and therefore we can limit the need for staggering. Each class will enter at their specific point and they will not be lining up. Children may enter their classroom any time between 8.50am and 9.00am. Even though the school gates will be open at 8.35am we would encourage children not to come to school until 8.50am at the earliest so that they avoid congregating in the playground. At the end of the school day children must leave the school grounds promptly.

**Who will my child be able to mix with at school?**

As far as possible children will remain in their class grouping for lessons, lunch and play.

**Where will the children be working?**

Children will be working in their own classrooms or outdoor spaces, there will be limited movement throughout the school.

**What will the classrooms look like?**

Our classrooms will still look warm, friendly and familiar to the children. There will, however, be minimal resources on display and desks will face the front. The exception to this will be for our early years’ classrooms.

**Will staff be wearing face coverings?**

All school staff in Midlothian will be wearing visors, with the exception of staff working with nursery and P1 children. Staff may also choose to wear a mask if they wish.

**What happens if my child gets hurt or becomes ill?**

We will have full PPE and will administer the usual first aid. If your child displays Covid 19 symptoms they will be placed in an identified isolation room with a member of staff wearing PPE, whilst waiting for you to collect them.

We ask for your continued support and patience at this incredibly challenging time. As you can understand we are having to reorganise the school environment and procedures in line with Government guidance. The health and safety of the children, staff and our families are at the heart of every decision we make.