



Bankhead Primary School
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17th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Many of you may be wondering what the government and local council's plans are for your children's return to school. The answers are not simple or straightforward and I must ask for your patience while we plan and work through the arrangements to ensure a safe return for your children in August. There are many issues to be addressed and above all I want to ensure the safety of our children and staff.

Nicola Sturgeon and her Education Secretary John Swinney have laid out a plan for a return to school in August. Maureen McKenna our Education Director has shared the agreed model for Glasgow schools. It will be a blended approach as she set out below.

Bankhead Primary has over 404 pupils and the school building has limited space. The health and safety rules are extensive and the 2m social distancing rule means that not all children will be able to attend school at the same time. The classrooms can hold between 10-12 children under the current guidance.

Please read and note this information from our Director of Education:

Each school will develop their own plan taking into account their staffing, layout and context. In order to maximise teaching time for children, primary schools will amend the timing of the school week and the school day. Teaching groups will be created which can be accommodated in the available teaching spaces in the school. General Purpose rooms and gyms may be used as teaching spaces. It is likely that almost all children will be offered two days a week in-school teaching. Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday. When they are not in school, children will be expected to be cared for at home whilst continuing their learning. There will be some childcare available for the children of keyworkers and some vulnerable children.

Whilst decisions are being taken at the local level, we would expect this to include consideration of:

- Category 1** – Health and Care workers directly supporting COVID response, and associated staff; Health and Care workers supporting life threatening emergency work, as well as critical primary and community care provision; Energy suppliers (small numbers identified as top priority already); staff providing childcare/learning for other category 1 staff.
- Category 2** – All other Health and Care workers, and wider public sector workers providing emergency/critical welfare services (for example: fire, police, prisons, social workers), as well as those supporting our Critical National Infrastructure, without whom serious damage to the welfare of the people of Scotland could be caused.
- Category 3** – All workers (private, public or third sector) without whom there could be a significant impact on Scotland (but where the response to COVID-19, or the ability to perform essential tasks to keep the country running, would not be severely compromised).

August childcare

We recognise that increasing numbers of parents will be returning to their work and that a blended approach to learning with only two full days in school for primary-aged children or mornings only for nursery-aged children will not suit all parents. It is likely that there will be restrictions on the numbers of children that we can provide childcare for on the days they are not in school. Therefore, we will be asking working parents to engage with their

employer (as directed by Nicola Sturgeon) to explore how they can continue to work from home on a part-time basis to reduce the number of children requiring childcare. We will encourage employers to be supportive.

We are prioritising family groups to attend on the same day and with the help of class teachers we will attempt to match children across their friendship groups; however, this is a very complex task. Instead of the planned 15 classes, we will now begin with 18 smaller classes in August using every available space to create classrooms. Our expectation is that your child will have excellent experiences in school and all staff have developed their knowledge and understanding of emotional literacy so that they can support the children. We will continue to have our social and emotional base for pupils who need some additional reassurance.

This is what an initial timetable might look like for pupils:

	9.00-9.15am	Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4
Day 1	Health & Well-being (HWB) Feelings check-in Talking & Listening (T&L) and attendance register	Numeracy Talking & Listening	Literacy Reading, comprehension, spelling, grammar, T&L Class Novel /Reading Books	Maths	HWB/ Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL)
Day 2	Health & Well-being (HWB) Feelings check-in Talking & Listening (T&L) and attendance register	Numeracy Talking & Listening	Literacy Writing Talk through Writing (T&L) Class Novel/ Reading Books	P.E Health & Well-being (HWB)/ Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL)	HWB/ Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL) Home learning

On Monday 22nd June you will receive a text to inform you which class your child will be in, the name of their class teacher and which two days they will attend school. As there will be over 200 children attending each day, a plan of the school will be put on the school website indicating which entrance/exit your child will use and the start/end time of school day. Half the children will start at 8.45am and finish at 3.15pm and the other half from 9am-3.30pm. Designated areas will be highlighted on the map where parents of P1-P3 children can wait and the parents P4-P7 children are asked to wait outside of the playgrounds. We request that only one parent enters the playground when collecting children. Members of the management team will be available at all entrances before and at the end of the day if parents have any queries or concerns. No parents will be allowed in the school building. We will make arrangements for siblings if they are in different playgrounds to meet at the end of the day. The length of each school day will be 5.5 hours and education will take the form of 'blended learning' which means working with a teacher in school and then learning at home to reinforce and support the learning which has taken place

I want to express my gratitude to all staff for their commitments and dedication they have shown in adopting a totally new way of teaching and communicating online with our children. This was a completely new venture for them with very little notice or training but they rose to the challenge magnificently. Many of them provided this service working from home whilst supporting their own children's Home Learning or caring for family members who are shielding.

At this time I would like to thank Ms Crawford who is moving to a new teaching position in August and to Mrs Sutherland who has been seconded by GCC to be an Early Leader of

Learning. We are grateful for the many years of service both of these teachers have provided for the children in Bankhead Primary School. We wish Mr McCusker the very best of luck as he has successfully completed his probationary year and to our temporary teachers; Mrs Slaven, Miss MacKay and Mr Doyle as they take up new positions in August. We welcome back Mrs Moore, Mrs Watson and say hello to Miss Nicole Burrell who has been appointed as a permanent member of staff and Miss McLarty who will return to cover Mrs Hutcheon's maternity leave cover.

We have collected all relevant data throughout lockdown and we are totally aware of each child's engagement. We can confidently assure you that we have plans to ensure we target our delivery in August to close the gaps in learning and also support our children with a recovery curriculum targeted through nurturing approaches.

On **Monday 22nd June** you are invited to come to school to collect your child's Progress Report and a '*Returning to Bankhead Primary School Booklet*' for your child. This booklet has the name of their teacher, photos of classrooms and information about playtime and lunchtime. You should enter the school by the lower school playground and the reports and booklets will be available to collect from a member of staff. If you are unable to come on this date, we will email both documents to you. You can collect reports and booklets for ***your whole family*** when collecting at the earliest time; you do not need to return for each of your children's classes. On this day you can also collect any surplus home learning packs which you might want to use during the holidays.

Progress report pick up timetable

(Class/Year Group your child is currently in for 2019-2020 school year)

P7a Parents -9.15am
P1 Parents -10.00am
P2 Parents -10.45am
P3 Parents- 11.30am
P4 Parents -12.15pm
P5 Parents- 1.00pm
P6 Parents- 1.45pm
P7b Parents - 2.30pm

I cannot thank you enough for your patience and support and for all the many good wishes you have sent to the staff. They have really appreciated all your kind words and understanding, in turn we have appreciated everything that you have done to support your children in very challenging circumstances.

We are so looking forward to seeing the children and to hear about how they have coped throughout lockdown, what they have missed most and what they are looking forward to. We have missed them and you their families so much. Whilst we will return to a "new normal" I can assure you that your children will be well cared for and fully supported as ever by all our wonderful staff in Bankhead Primary.

Yours sincerely,

M. Celine McKinlay

Mrs McKinlay
Head Teacher