

Meldrum School Newsletter

10th August 2020



Welcome back to a new school session at Meldrum School. I hope you all had a lovely summer. We are looking forward to welcoming all the children back to school this week. We have a number of arrangements to share with you ahead of children returning to school. The guidance for schools is constantly evolving so these arrangements may change in the coming days and weeks. The guidance we are following is from the Scottish Government <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-preparing-start-new-school-term-august-2020/> and we have thorough risk assessments in place for both children and staff returning to school. Our Risk Assessment for returning to school can be found [here](#).

As we shared with you in our newsletter on 2nd July, we will have a soft start in place for children returning to school. This is to support all children as they transition back to school after several months away. P2-7 children will come in on either Wednesday 12th or Thursday 13th August for a full day then all P2-7 children will resume full time from Friday 14th August. The soft start group your child is in was emailed to you during the last week of term. Primary 1 arrangements have been communicated separately.

Monday 10 th August	Tuesday 11 th August	Wednesday 12 th August	Thursday 13 th August	Friday 14 th August
INSERVICE DAY	INSERVICE DAY	Group A children only	Group B children only	All P2-7 children resume

The timings of our school day for P1-7 remain the same, 9.15am – 3.30pm. Children will enter through three entrances, detailed below. Cones will be set out to show where each class should line up and a member of the Senior Leadership Team will be in each playground at the start of each day to oversee the children coming into school.

Parents should drop children at the school gate and are not permitted to enter the school playground (the only exception to this is parents of nursery children). We would ask that you maintain, as much as possible, 2 metre distancing from adults and other children and do not 'gather' around the school gates.

Please do not arrive at school too early as this will lead to large gatherings of people which we should try to avoid. Older children, who walk to school themselves, should not arrive at school too early and should be reminded to maintain 2 metre distancing from adults.



	Start of Day	End of Day	
P1C	Early Playground – cones will be set out	Children will be walked down to the lower playground (beside the climbing wall) and dismissed from there	P1C
P1H			P1H
P1/2B			P1/2B
P2MP			P2MP
P2L			P2L
P3YE	Meadowbank Playground - cones will be set out	Meadowbank Playground	P3YE
P3S			P3S
P3/4S			P3/4S
P4MA			P4MA
P4/5WS	Canopy Entrance - cones will be set out	Canopy Entrance	P4/5WS
P5B			P5B
P5CC			P5CC
P6R			P6R
P6D			P6D
P7C			P7C
P7B			P7B

We would ask that you do not use the school car park unless absolutely necessary and we would encourage as many families as possible to walk to school. Car sharing with children from other households is strongly discouraged.

In school, social distancing remains at 2 metres between adults, and, where possible, 2 metres between adults and children. There is currently no social distancing required between children, however, we will discourage physical contact between pupils, for example, hugging.

Should your child wish to wear a face covering, they are free to do so. Please note that some of our staff may also choose to wear face coverings. Washable face coverings should be taken home daily for appropriate cleaning and disposable face coverings should be replaced regularly. Children should be able to put on and remove their face covering independently as staff will be unable to assist with this. Face coverings should be named.

We would ask that children wear clean clothes each day. Ideally this will be school uniform however we understand that you may not have enough school uniform to provide clean uniform each day, so any appropriate clothes are fine. Where possible, we recommend that long hair is tied back. Additional personal belongings should not be brought to school.

Children will be learning outdoors as often as possible and PE will be outdoors. Please ensure your child comes to school suitably dressed for outdoor learning each day, wearing trainers would be ideal. There is no need to provide a PE kit as we are trying to limit the need for changing.

Meldrum School Newsletter

10th August 2020



At this time, children should not bring a school bag to school. This is because we are trying to limit the number of items which move between school and home. Please send your child with a small pencil case equipped with basic equipment. This will remain in school and not be brought home each day. If you are not able to provide a pencil case and resources, these will be provided for your child in school.

Water bottles will be brought home each day and should be thoroughly washed before being returned to school the next day. As always, please label everything!

All personal belongings which were left in school before the closure have been passed on to your child's new teacher and will be sent home this week.

To support increased ventilation, classroom windows will remain open throughout the day. Please ensure your child comes to school with a jumper or cardigan, even on a warm day.

Enhanced personal hygiene will be practised in school and will include regular hand washing and the use of hand sanitiser across the school. All children will be encouraged to wash their hands when arriving in school in the morning and before they go home in the afternoon, before and after eating at break and lunch, and after using the toilet.

We will have staggered break times and lunch times and classes will play in zoned areas of the playground. P1 and P2 children will eat lunch in the dining hall in class groups and P3-7 will eat lunch in their classroom with school lunches being delivered by kitchen staff. The catering team will be offering a tailored menu featuring two courses of their most popular dishes. Menus can be accessed here

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25375/primarymenustailored2weeks.pdf>

The choices will consist of one 'hot' option and one 'cold' option. Dietary requirements will be handled as per current procedures. I would discourage children going home for lunch at this time unless this is absolutely necessary. There will be no break time tuck shop at the moment.

Meldrum School Newsletter

10th August 2020



	Break Time	Lunch Time
P1C	10.45 – 11.00am	12.00 – 1.00pm
P1H		
P1/2B		
P2MP		
P2L		
P3YE		
P3S		
P3/4S		
Enhanced Provision		
P4MA		
P4/5WS	11.00 – 11.15am	1.00 – 2.00pm
P5B		
P5CC		
P6R		
P6D		
P7C		
P7B		

In line with national advice, we are adopting a zero-tolerance approach to any COVID-19 symptoms. We will follow the NHS Test and Protect approach for any person in school who reports symptoms. Should your child display any symptoms while attending school, we have identified an isolation zone within the building for them to safely and comfortably wait while you come to collect them and then contact the NHS for testing advice. Children should not come to school if they have – a new continuous cough, fever/high temperature, loss of or change in sense of smell or taste. Self isolation guidance should be followed if your child or anyone in your household has any of these symptoms <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

Parents are not able to come into school at the moment, so please email meldrum.sch@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or call the school office (01651 267455) should you need to get in touch with us for any reason.

School will undoubtedly be different at the moment for children but please be assured that the wellbeing of all children is our main priority and we look forward to welcoming everyone back this week.

Yours sincerely

Carol Harper

Acting Head Teacher

Meldrum Nursery School Newsletter

10th August 2020



The staff at Meldrum Nursery would like to welcome back our returning children and are very excited to meet our new children who will be joining us over the coming weeks. We have made lots of preparations for your return and will endeavour to keep you informed of any changes or updates we may need to exercise.

We have put in place procedures to ensure your child is as safe as we can possibly make it, always putting your child first, their safety and well-being are paramount in our considerations. We have enhanced cleaning regimes which we will adhere to and we have separated the children into smaller groups to limit cross contamination. You will be advised which door your child should enter by to reduce adult contact and size of cohort of children. We ask that only one person drops off/collects your child, wear a face covering, adhere to social distancing and not linger in the playground.

We recognise that you and your child may be experiencing anxieties due to the pandemic and want to keep lines of communication open via phone calls or through your child's online profile. Your child may experience separation anxieties and for this reason, we will set up an outdoor area to support transition into the nursery space. Parents will only be admitted to the nursery room for their initial meeting with their key worker to gather information about your child to inform your child's personal plan. Only one parent may attend the meeting and a face covering should be worn. If the weather is good, this meeting will take place outdoors. Please remember to adhere to social distancing at all times when in the school playground.

There will be a zero tolerance to COVID like symptoms and we ask that you are respectful of this rule- we have everyone's safety to consider so if your child has a cough, temperature, diarrhoea or vomiting, please keep them at home.

Our focus this term will be on the well-being of your child. We will continue to plan activities based on the interests of your child, creating environments that will stimulate curiosity and creativity. We will explore well-being through a series of children's books exploring worries, emotions and feelings to help your child recognise and be able to talk about how they feel.

We recognise that you will be anxious to know how your child has settled so we will take lots of videos to share with you through your child's online profile. We would ask that you share your child's learning at home via their online profile.

There are no rules about pre-school children social distancing from each other or from adults and we want to assure you that your child will be well looked after in our setting. We will have lots of fun and we will be learning at the same time!

Kind regards

Nicola Park
Early Years Senior Practitioner