



Update

Over the past few weeks, we have been working hard to formulate plans for a blended learning approach beginning in August. These were due to be shared with you yesterday, however you will be aware that the Deputy First Minister made a statement in Parliament yesterday afternoon regarding returning to school in August. He advised that as a result of the continuing good progress being made in Scotland in tackling the Covid 19 pandemic and providing we stay on track as a country, then we should prepare for all pupils to return to school in August. However, this is dependent upon us continuing with the virus suppression.

The plan for a blended learning approach will now become our contingency plan should we be required to react to a national or local change in circumstances regarding Covid 19.

Blended Learning Approach – Contingency Plan

In order to plan for a blended learning approach, we have taken many factors into consideration – current social distancing recommendations, size of rooms, staffing and supervision. Following 2 metre distancing guidelines, we would be in a position to safely accommodate one third of our P1-7 children at a time. Should we require to revert to this model, children would be in school one week in three from Monday – Thursday with Friday used by teachers to prepare remote learning for the subsequent two weeks where children would be learning at home. Fridays would also be used to ensure the school has been deep cleaned between Bubble Groups.

Learning over a three week rotation would be structured as follows

Week 1	Learning in school. Focus on Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Wellbeing
Week 2	Remote Learning. Consolidation of Week 1 Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Wellbeing learning
Week 3	Remote Learning. Focus on all other curricular areas.

In school, children would learn in one of 55 Mainstream Bubble Groups of between 6-10 pupils and 3 Enhanced Provision Bubble Groups, utilising all teaching staff and available spaces (including General Purpose spaces and Dining Hall).

A system of staggered starts (9.00am, 9.10am and 9.20am) and pick up times (3.00pm, 3.10pm and 3.20pm) would be introduced to ensure minimal contact between Bubble Groups.

Bubble Groupings are in place and, should we be required to put in place our contingency plan, you will be notified accordingly. Bubble Groups have been configured to ensure that siblings from Primary 1-7 would be in school at the same time and children have at least one 'familiar face' from their current class in their Bubble Group.

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We are in the process of liaising with our colleagues at Aberdeenshire Council Transport around the logistics of bus and taxi arrangements should we need to revert to this model. Further information will follow if required.

As part of the contingency plan, Aberdeenshire Catering Services have confirmed that they would be able to offer a two course hot or cold meal to children on the days they are in school. The meals would be delivered to classrooms and children would eat these at their desks. Ordering and payment of school meals would continue in the same way, through iPayimpact. Children would be, of course, welcome to bring a packed lunch, should you prefer.

Return to Full Time Schooling in August

Following yesterday's announcement, we are now amending our arrangements for August. To return all pupils to school full time in August, there are a number of considerations which have to be taken into account and as such we currently await further instruction from Aberdeenshire Council to allow us to achieve this. We will continue to keep you updated.

Part of this process is to configure a new class structure. Our classes next session will be a combination of straight classes and composite classes across P1 - P7. You will understand configuring classes is a complex process, taking into account national class size guidance, pupil social groupings, ability levels and class groups. Should you require further information about composite classes, please see <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/admissions/composite-classes/> It is important to note that we are not able to meet parent requests around class organisation.

You may be aware that the date for the start of term has changed. Pupils will return to school on Wednesday 12th August. Revised school term dates for session 2020/21 are available here <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/school-info/school-term-dates/#term20-21>

We are still awaiting communication from Aberdeenshire Council Early Years Team around revised arrangements for nursery children. This will be communicated to you as soon as we can.

Arrangements for our new Primary 1 pupils will vary very slightly at the start of term, further details to follow by the end of this week.

We understand our children will be excited about returning to school but may also have concerns or worries about this. We are gathering children's views about this through Health and Wellbeing learning activities on Google Classroom this week and we will take children's feedback and potential worries into account as we return to school.

School Uniform

Whilst dress code is an important part of school routine, our priority at the moment is to get everyone back to school safely. We understand that school uniform may no longer fit and families may not be in a position to purchase new uniform at this time. Next term, we will

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encourage children to wear school uniform if at all possible, however at the start of next term this will not be essential. An order form for new school uniform will follow in August.

Alternatively, you can purchase school uniform online at

<https://www.schoolwearnadeeasy.com/>

Google Classroom

For the last week of term, teachers will be posting two activities each day. These will include opportunities to reflect back on the current school year. Mrs Reid and Mrs Cooper will post Health and Wellbeing and PE activities as normal.

Summer Reading Challenge

This years' **Summer Reading Challenge** launched on Monday 22nd June and runs until Saturday 22nd August 2020. The challenge is fully accessible online for you to enjoy in the comfort of your home, garden or local area, all you must do is register. This year the challenge includes exciting sport, physical, arts, craft, outdoor challenges linked to themes such as fantasy island, big read picnic and so much more.

This year the creative competition asks you to design a postcard with a rainbow included in your design. This is open to all children whether they are taking part in the challenge or not.

All the details are at <https://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/live-life-at-home/>

We appreciate your continuing support, particularly at this challenging time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Carol Harper'.

Carol Harper

Acting Head Teacher