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East Dunbartonshire Council

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EDUCATION SERVICE

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Dear Parents

Update on the Arrangements for the Reopening of Schools in January

Following the decision by Scottish Government in relation to schools reopening in January, exceptional arrangements have been put in place to ensure sufficient time to assess the impact on community transmission, following the festive period and the new strain of the COVID virus. The situation in relation to the reopening of schools and early years is evolving and it has now been confirmed that schools will not reopen for the majority of pupils until 1 February.

The announcement on 4 January that Scotland is now in Lockdown has required a change to the arrangements previously intimated. It was stated that the majority of children should be taught remotely and only those children of key workers and those who are identified as vulnerable should be in-school. It also required people to work from home where possible. This requires us to only have staff in school who are required to deliver in-school provision.

In order to minimise the risk of transmission of the virus and to ensure that our schools and centres are safe as possible for staff and children the following arrangements will be in place.

Key Worker Provision

Children should only attend while their parents are at work and need childcare, so parents are asked to let the school know which days their child will be in school. The Lockdown restrictions may have altered parents' work arrangements so please notify the school or centre if you no longer require a key worker place for your child. In Early Years, children should attend for their usual sessions.

Places will be allocated if parents meet the following criteria:

- Both parents (or in the case of a single parent) are in the key worker category as defined in the Scottish Government Guidance; AND

- Are required to attend their place of work i.e are not working from home; AND
- Have no other childcare options/

Schools will operate the usual hours and so parents should make the usual childcare arrangements out with school hours. Informal childcare is now permitted unlike during the previous lockdown. The following advice from the Parent Club may be useful to parents.

<https://www.parentclub.scot/articles/your-guide-childcare>

Parents should complete the Application form and email it to the school or early years office. The school will then confirm if a place has been allocated.

Vulnerable children

In order to ensure the health and safety of staff and children, Head Teachers will work with the relevant agencies to identify those children who require additional support and time in school. This includes Campsie View, Merkland , Primary and Secondary Wellbeing Services and the Enhanced Learning Resources. We will work with partner agencies to provide support to families during this difficult time.

Remote Learning

Significant progress has been made with the provision of digital learning since the last lockdown. On-line learning will form part of a package of remote learning provided by schools. This will be appropriate for the age and stage of the child. This will be provided using Microsoft Teams or Google Classroom. Seesaw is now being provided in all primary schools across the Council and this will provide a platform for feedback on children's learning for parents and teachers. There are a number of on-line resources and all secondary schools will have access to the West Online School (West OS) which has a range of recorded video clips. Teachers will be working to put a programme in place and to share information with parents and children.

We understand how difficult this is for families and will do all we can to support you and your child through this time until they are all back in school full time again. If you have any concerns about your child, please contact the Head Teacher of your child's school.

Kind regards

JACQUI MACDONALD
Chief Education Officer