

Dear Families

### **Welcome Back**

We are genuinely pleased to see our pupils again and welcome our new P1 children to the school. It is so good to see smiley faces, hear a buzz around the school and hear the sound of children playing again in the grounds. We have been overwhelmed by how quickly the pupils have responded to the new routines and changes. It is early days yet but the start we have made to our recovery process is beyond where we expected to be after two days. Thank you to all our families, you have been very supportive of our new structures and routines and showed patience with the 'blips' we have encountered in the first few days.

### **Potential Bottleneck at Front Gates**

P1, P2, P3 and P6/7 are all collected from the two doors at the front of the school, this was planned so these classes were close to their rooms or cloakroom. It also reduced the need to move around inside the school building and reduced contact with other classes. But it is these age groups where adults are more likely to collect their child from school. We wish to continue with this arrangement but realise it is leading to a bottle neck of predominantly of adults at and around the front gate, leaving no space to social distance and reduced visibility for any cars trying to pass. Families can use any gate leading into the school grounds and we would encourage you to do this. We urge you to have just one adult per family picking up children where possible.

### **10 minute wait between P1/2 and P3-7**

At pick up time there can be a 10 minute wait if you are collecting more than 1 child. We are happy for families to wait in the playground for this period or wait on the public paths around the school.

### **Assembly**

We held our first live virtual assembly this morning and it was resounding success, we could see pupils in all the classes and could hear the clapping for birthday celebrations around the school building. We started to learn the birthday song using sign language because we are unable to sing just now under Scottish Government guidance. Assembly and the feeling of togetherness was the highlight of my week.

### **Communication with the School**

During lockdown we invited families to contact staff directly through edubuzz and e-mails. I would ask that all e-mails to staff are now directed through the school office. It ensures a timely response and it is the only e-mail account that is checked daily.

### **Staffing Update**

We have a preferred candidate for the leader of our nursery. Mrs Anne Fraser will be joining the team in four weeks time. Anne has many years of experience as a nursery nurse and as a leader of a nursery and joins us from a setting within Midlothian. In the meantime the nursery will be led by myself. Until Mrs Fraser is in position Mrs Cunningham has agreed to undertake some extra hours and Miss Leake who is our additional teacher (and who was also a nursery nurse in a previous life) will be working in the nursery too.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards

Pam Currie  
Headteacher