



Athelstaneford Primary School  
Athelstaneford  
North Berwick  
East Lothian  
EH39 5BE

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### Plans for School Re-Opening (Primary 1-7)

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to you to share our plans for re-opening the school next week. Our staff have been preparing for this and making changes based on the current government guidance and scientific advice.

We are thrilled to share that **all children in Primary 1-7 will return to school on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August full-time**. We will be making use of the first few days to re-connect with our children and establish new routines and approaches in line with recent changes that have been made.

In the first three weeks we ask that Primary 2-7 children arrive at school between 8:45 and 8:55 a.m. They will walk straight into the school building to their class and start the day with a soft start in their classroom. Bus children will do the same when dropped off. Adults should not enter the school grounds to drop their child off. This is to help with social distancing. Staff will be at the school gate to welcome them and support with transitions.

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>, we ask that Primary 1 are brought to the nursery garden between 9 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. They will start their day in the nursery before moving to the primary 1/2 classroom. From the Friday they will follow the same routine as the rest of the school and starting their day in P1/2.

To help avoid gatherings at the end of the day, siblings and P1/2 children will leave school at 3:15 p.m. We will then have the rest of the school leave from 3:20 p.m. Children on the bus will access this as normal.

For the first three weeks the only items that your child needs to bring are: a snack, a water bottle (filled each morning before school), a packed lunch (if not ordering through ipay), clothing and any protection required from the sun. A coat is essential regardless of the weather due to windows needing to remain open to help with ventilation. We ask that children do not bring other items such as toys into school unless it is absolutely necessary. For the first three weeks, at least, there will not be any books or homework coming from school to your homes. There will also be a relaxation of school uniform to help with washing and managing clothes for the first term.

Children may choose to bring a face mask to school if that makes them feel safe. The government guidance for staff is that these should be used by staff when working with children in close proximity for over 15 minutes. Staff may choose to wear them more if it helps to make them feel safe. Our staff will be trying to maintain social distancing from children and adults as much as possible. This will mean adaptations are needed in our approaches to teaching and learning. Rest assured however that we are fully committed to making our children feel nurtured and will be making physical contact when appropriate.



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We are happy to share that there will be extra time allocated to cleaning each day and the council have purchased fogging machines to help make our school cleaner and safer. Classes will also be asked to wash or sanitise their hands regularly and help with cleaning surfaces etc. We are staggering times for breaks and lunches and as much as possible will be trying to reduce the interactions between children from different classes.

As previously mentioned, adults should not enter the school grounds. If you are needing to speak to us, we would ask you to phone or email the school. We will be making use of these system as well as groupcall to contact you with any communication. Once your children are dropped off or collected we would ask that you leave the school area in a prompt manner.

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. we will be hosting a re-opening information evening. Hopefully you are able to join us to find out more about plans and the changes made. We will share this information further after the session. This event will be followed by the parent council AGM. If you have any specific questions or specific topics you would like to hear about, please complete this form:

<https://forms.gle/aPAUa3ADaqKQ5gZAA>

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> we are offering any children who are anxious about returning to school the opportunity to come for 10-15 minute visit. If you feel this would be beneficial for your child we would ask you to complete this form:

<https://forms.gle/39iZpZifRmrzutEi8>

If you have any questions, concerns or feedback over the next few weeks I would ask that you get in touch with myself in the first instance. Our approaches will be evolving over the next few weeks and we see our children and community playing a big role in these being successful. Thank you for your continued support during these difficult times.

Yours Faithfully

Stewart Brown

Headteacher