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Tuesday 4th January 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

I hope that you have all had a relaxing Christmas and New Year holiday and are looking forward to returning on Wednesday 5th January. This letter gives you some information regarding arrangements **we will have in place for the next few weeks** as we welcome pupils back but still remain focused on keeping adults and children safe.

As you may be aware COVID Guidance from the Scottish Government continues to be reviewed and updated guidance was published after the school closed on the 17th December.

In light of the Omicron variant **safety mitigations that were already in place must continue to be strictly followed and some measures that were previously relaxed are being reintroduced.**

Start and Finish Times – there is no change to these however as a reminder, for all P1 – P7 Pupils:

Monday – Thursday	Friday
Start times: P1- P7 = 8.45 am	Start times: P1- P7 = 8.45 am
Staggered Finish Times: P1 and P2 will be dismissed at 2.40 pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 will be dismissed at 3.15 pm	Staggered Finish Times P1 and P2 will be dismissed at 12.00 pm P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 will be dismissed at 12.00 pm

School Meals

These will be eaten in the class room bubbles as we are being discouraged to hold any type of mixed gathering at this point. The school meal selection has been adapted to allow this to happen.

Groupings (Bubbles)

The children will be in class groupings (bubbles) at the start of this term.

There will be focus on ensuring that children are aware and follow the health, safety and well-being measures in place. In the classroom, teachers will be giving pupils the chance to reconnect with their friends, engage in activities that are aimed at making them feel welcome, secure and happy to be back at school. At this moment in time at break times, there will be no change to current arrangements.

Updated Guidance on Covid 19 (Omicron) Isolation Period:

If any member of a household tests positive for Covid 19, **the whole household must isolate for 10 days**, this is regardless of the rest of the household having a Negative PCR test. **Children should not be sent to school if anyone in the household has tested positive.**

If a pupil attends the school with symptoms of cough and/ or high temperature, they will be sent home immediately, it is essential that we have your most up to date contact details. We will contact all emergency contacts that we hold for your child until we are able to get hold of someone. If they need to wait to be collected by their parent or carer, they will be isolated in a private, well ventilated room/area. Isolation rooms will be cleaned after use in keeping with National Guidance.

School staff will be vigilant to any potential signs of Covid-19 and will always err on the side of caution in contacting parents and carers.

What pupils need to bring each day

They should always bring a waterproof jacket or coat, named water bottle, snack and lunch box. We will be using our outdoor areas much more again in the coming session and we will always try to ensure pupils have an outdoor break and lunchtime – so just in case it does rain, please send them with a waterproof.

Ventilation in buildings

Staff will still be asked to ensure good ventilation by keeping windows open and where possible not closing the doors of small rooms. Pupils and staff will spend more time outdoors, with weather appropriate clothing. An extra jumper in the school bag might be useful on colder days.

Cleaning routines

All areas will be cleaned daily by cleaning staff to maintain high standards of cleanliness, using methods and cleaning products in keeping with national guidance (COVID-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings).

Hand washing

Stocks of soap will be checked, and replenished, before the start of every day. All classrooms have access to warm water and soap. Hand sanitiser will also be available. Pupils and staff will wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol hand sanitiser, when:

***entering the building *before eating or handling food *after blowing the nose *after sneezing or coughing
*after going to the toilet**

Staff Testing

Staff working in school will continue to take part in the Asymptomatic testing programme as an added precaution to reduce contact with adults who may be carrying the virus without knowing. (Lateral Flow Testing at least 2 times a week.)

Access to Toilets

Pupils' access to toilets will be carefully managed to ensure good health and hygiene. There will be a strong emphasis on hand washing after visiting the toilet.

First Aid, Medication, Personal Care & PPE

Staff have been issued with disposable gloves and aprons for all first aid and personal care tasks. Where required, staff will deal with first aid requirements and personal care at as 'safe' a distance as possible however you will appreciate that the 1m rule is not possible here especially when TLC is also required.

If your child requires to have medication in school you must ensure you have completed the appropriate paperwork for school staff to be able to administer this. Forms are available for asthma and prescribed medication from the school office.

School Uniform

Although school uniform plays an important part of creating a positive school ethos, it is more important that your child attends school and we would therefore not insist on our children to wear our school uniform. If coming into school with boots or wellies, please bring another pair of indoor shoes to change into.

Meeting with staff/Visiting the school

We really value our relationships with you and want to provide opportunities to discuss any worries or concerns you may have. Guidance states that parents can only visit the school in exceptional circumstances and we are required to limit the amount of people who are coming in and out of the school buildings. Online meetings continue to be the preferred method of delivery, however if a face to face meeting is essential we ask you to 'phone first'. This enables us to plan for any necessary meetings in a safe way for everyone.

If you have any questions or need to contact us, you can do so in the usual way – by contacting the school office admin box by email (admin@humbie.elcschool.org.uk) or by phoning the school on **01875 833247**.

In the first instance please ask to speak with your child's class teacher with regards to homework, friendship concerns, curricular issues etc.

You can of course also make contact with myself through the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Debby Crossan

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Head Teacher