

Thursday, 19 March 2020

Highland Schools will close at end of school day on Friday 20 March

As communicated by the First Minister yesterday, we can confirm that all schools in The Highland Council region will close at the end of the school day on Friday 20th March. Pupils should **not** return to school on Monday 23rd March.

The Chief Executive of The Highland Council, Donna Manson said:

“Having received a letter from the Scottish Government at 2:45pm today, immediate and extensive work will be required to make sure that we can assess the implications of the Government’s requirements in terms of the provision of learning and care for the children of key worker groups. It is hoped that these arrangements will be in place from Friday 27th March.

“Further information will be communicated as the Council engages with a range of partners to ensure that we support the Highland effort to reduce the spread of coronavirus and the work of the emergency services as set out in the Civil Contingencies Act.

“Another key piece of work will be the continued and adapted provision of food, care, support and protection to our vulnerable children.

“With regards to the week beginning Monday 23 March, I am confident that our education staff across the Highlands are in a position to provide families with an education package for all our children at home, during this first week of school closures in these exceptional circumstances.

“Schools have been in contact with parents and the Council has set up access to online resources via the educational improvement team at: <https://www.highland.gov.uk/digitalschoolshub> .”

“Any parent or carer enquiries should be directed to schools on Friday 20 March. From Monday 23 March Highland Council Education Helpline details will be communicated publicly in helping parents and carers with enquiries.

“Your support in these unprecedented times is greatly appreciated.”