

Please ask for: Kerrie Laird
Direct Dial: 01456 450458
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Dear Parents/Carers

Many thanks for your patience, support and understanding as we plan our way forward for children's return to school. The parent and pupil consultations along with Parent Council and staff discussions have helped us consider various thoughts and views in doing this. Although the situation is rapidly changing, I'd like to reassure our parents and children that we have various plans prepared and will be ready to welcome children back in whatever way, when we are asked to. Safety, health and wellbeing and re-building warm, friendly relationships will be our top priorities.

At our Parent Council meeting last week I set out our plans for a 'blended learning' approach as they were at the time. To ensure all families have similar information, I have attached the minutes from this meeting along with some of the questions that parents had raised and our suggested solutions which were also discussed.

We do not know how the situation will look in August but, we have plans related to these for differing eventualities and ask parents to recognise that these are adaptable to allow us to respond to government advice in relation to the changing situation with Covid 19 e.g. a change in physical distancing.

Should children return to full-time as is now expected, our intention is that current composite classes will move up a year group, keeping the same splits e.g. P1/2 will move to P2/3 and so on. In this way we will have a straight Primary 1 class.

We have had it confirmed that we will welcome a probationer teacher, Mr Stephen Marshall in August to fill our 0.7 vacancy. Class teachers for each stage will depend on whichever plan we return to and will be confirmed along with detailed plans when we know what this will entail. Ms MacKay (P2/3) and Miss Walker (P4/5) will leave at the end of term and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and commitment during their time at Glenurquhart Primary. We wish them all the very best as they move on in their future careers.

In the meantime, we are preparing a video to share with families, with goodbye messages from current teachers and an introduction to all staff for children new to the school or to allow them to see new teachers at a later date. We also hope to provide a tour of the Primary 1 and Gaelic classroom area for new Primary 1 children following re-organising the infant class environment this week to suit a more play directed focus.

The High School have been in touch to say that transition meets have gone very well this week and I'd like to praise the Primary 7 children for their full commitment and engagement



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with these. You have shown a fantastic approach to the challenges presented by lockdown. We hope these various meets and information packs have supported you in your step up to the High School. All at Glenurquhart Primary wish you our very best in this move and look forward to our online party to celebrate next week.

Chromebooks – P7 should keep their chromebook for going up to the High School and current P6s should keep their chromebook for P7 next year. The new P6s will be issued chromebooks once they are available in the new session. We ask that all our current P7 return their chromebook covers when they collect their personal property next week.

Many parents have been asking about uniform. We will continue to request a school jumper/top is worn with comfortable bottoms and shoes for the days children are in school. Windows will be open where possible in classrooms to aid ventilation so, a jumper is advised. We will also be outdoor learning as much as possible so a waterproof jacket is necessary at all times. Information about uniform and suppliers can be found on our website: <http://www.glenurquhartprimary.org.uk/for-parents/school-uniform/>

While I have tried to answer parent queries as best I can above, I do not wish to confuse parents or children about what August will look like any further. We will aim to communicate with parents detailed arrangement when these are confirmed and this is likely to be in the latter stages of the Summer break.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming everyone in to school and thank you again for your support in achieving this.

Kind regards,

K. Laird

Kerrie Laird
Head Teacher