

NMcD/HM

16.08.2021

John Muir House
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Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you have enjoyed the summer holiday period and your child is looking forward to their return to school. Our staff in schools are very much looking forward to seeing them!

As you may be aware, measures to reduce the likely transmission of Covid-19 will remain in place for the first six weeks of the new term. Many of these measures will be familiar to you and your learner from previous terms. Your school will provide you with specific details on the arrangements in their setting and we ask that you refer to this information.

The main points are:

- The national policy on self-isolation, contact tracing and testing for children and young people aged under 18 has been updated. Whole classes will no longer be asked to self-isolate if someone in the class tests positive for Covid-19.
- Your child will only be identified as a contact if they have had prolonged close contact with the case, such as living in the same household, or overnight stays. There will be no requirement for you or your child to self-isolate unless you are contacted by Test and Protect.
- Physical distancing between children and staff is still required: most schools will keep the same 2m distancing arrangements they have in place already - please refer to your own school information for details.
- There is still no requirement for strict physical distancing between children in primary schools. Distancing between young people at secondary school is not required, but is recommended.
- Secondary school pupils should continue to take twice-weekly Lateral Flow Testing. Ideally a test should be taken the night before, or morning of, their return to school.
- Face coverings remain essential at all times on home to school transport, unless an exemption applies.

We have updated our website www.eastlothian.gov.uk/backtoschool with information on this and other aspects about the return to school and hope that you find it useful. We will also keep you updated with any subsequent changes in guidance

We are grateful to all of our families for their support in following these essential health measures, and wish your child a successful return to learning.

Yours sincerely



Nicola McDowell
Head of Education Service