



Knox Academy

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to confirm the arrangements for our return to school after the summer holidays. Following the Depute First Minister's announcement on Tuesday, the Scottish Government has now asked us to prepare for all pupils returning full-time to school from 12 August 2020 assuming it is safe to do so. At the time of writing we are waiting for further detailed guidance to be provided to all Local Authorities – including on issues such as physical distancing and transportation. Relevant information will be shared with you over the summer holidays so that you have full details on our plans for the start of the new school session.

We have also been asked by Scottish Government to ensure that we have contingency plans in place in case the virus rates increase again in the coming months, and full-time schooling is not possible. For this reason I am writing to share with you what 'blended learning' means for Knox Academy. **Please note that, following the Scottish Government's announcement, this is our 'Plan B' and we now expect our children to return full-time from 12 August.** The purpose of sharing it with you is so that you will know, and can plan, what the impacts will be for your household if health and government advice changes over the summer holidays and we are asked to move to a blended learning model. (Please see the attached document 'Contingency Plan for Knox Academy.' On return we may still adopt some of the aspects within this document but this will be based on the advice from the Scottish Government nearer our return date).

In our contingency plan we had stated that we would be gifting all of our new S1s a Knox Academy tie on arrival, and this will still be the case. At the back of the contingency plan I also detailed 'What should pupils bring to school?' and this may still prove a helpful guide to you in preparing your young person's kit for August.

Again, I emphasise that the reason for sharing these contingency plans with you now is so that you know what the impacts would be only if the Scottish Government decides that full-time schooling will not be possible in August. We all hope that this will not be the case as we are looking forward to welcoming all of our children back to school full-time after the summer.

I would like to reassure you that the health and wellbeing of our children, families and our staff is of paramount importance to us. We will be undertaking careful planning over the summer to ensure that we can support all of our children and young people as they readjust to our buildings and the changes that may have been made. Our school had already completed all the necessary work to restructure classrooms, introduce hand sanitising stations, put in place arrangements to manage lunch and break-times and, of course, instigate cleaning regimes that would ensure high levels of hygiene. School meals will be in the form of packed lunches for the first few weeks. All of our preparatory work, and the views you shared with us during the parental survey, will still be very useful for a safe return to school.

We appreciate that some families will have health conditions and situations that will mean a return to school, in any form, would not be safe. Again, we await further clarification from the Scottish Government on how this should be addressed. This will form part of our future communications to you.

This term has presented our school communities and families with a number of challenges and we are very grateful for your support, resilience and the patience you have shown. We are committed to keeping in touch with you over the summer and communicating all relevant information when we can.

I would like to wish your family a safe and peaceful summer holiday and hope that we all return to a more positive health environment in August.

Best wishes to you all

Head Teacher