



Our Ref:



22.6.20

To the incredible children of Newtongrange Primary School,

In the past few months, you have been put in a very challenging situation. You have faced uncertainty, apprehension and a huge change in the way you learn. I am so proud of your positivity, resilience and determination to continue achieving during this difficult time.

In the space of a single weekend in March, you made the transition from classroom learning to working from dining room tables, bedroom carpets and garden lawns. You went from spending your days with your friends in our busy playgrounds, to lockdown, only spending time with your family for weeks on end. Video calling and online messaging has been a poor substitute for playing with others. We have all missed our friends and family and our staff have all missed you.

During this time, you have been challenged, yet you continue to shine and show how fantastic you are. At times, you or your family members may have struggled, but you have come together as a team and you will be all the stronger for it!

For the last few weeks, I have been working alongside our staff to plan for you to come back to school in August. The Government has asked us to ensure our classes are smaller than usual and that children spend time alongside the same group of people. School will feel different when you return: there will be no assembly in the hall, we will be staying in our own groups throughout the day, eating our lunch in the classroom and we will not be allowed to wander around the school. I will keep sending information to you and your parents to explain how we will operate. What will not change will be our school ethos where we aspire for great things, believe in ourselves and achieve with all our might!

The whole staff team and I are looking forwards to seeing you all in August. Our job will be to work to close any learning gaps that may have opened, and to support you in settling back into our school. This crisis has provided you with one life skill that you have in bucket loads: resilience. You have lived through a moment in history that future generations will read about, they will admire your determination and your sense of hope.

This week we are delighted to welcome our new P1 learners to school to meet their teacher and spend some time in their new classroom. We are looking forwards to them starting school in August.

Our wonderful P7s are also returning to school this week for a final visit before they move onto High School after the summer holidays. This year has not gone how any of us expected and our P7s have missed out on so much of their P7 experience. We are very grateful that they can come to school this week and that we can acknowledge and celebrate their time at Newtongrange.

It is positive that we are continuing to progress with lockdown measures being reduced. Unfortunately I still don't know when we will be altogether as a whole school, but I make this promise to you, it will happen! I cannot wait to see you all back in school, whenever and however that may be. In the meantime, keep safe, continue looking out for one another and have a lovely summer.

Finally, to our P7s, Class of 2020, as you move onto High School, on behalf of all the staff at Newtongrange, I would like to wish you all the success in your future. You have been a fantastic P7!

Miss Morgan  
Head Teacher

