



Our Ref:



8th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Return to School for Key Workers and Vulnerable Learners – Monday 11th January 2021

Happy New Year! I hope you managed to enjoy some time over Christmas to switch off and just enjoy being in the now, without thinking about the what ifs of 2020 or the what's to come in 2021. Life has been very difficult with Tier 4 restrictions in place and now another National Lockdown, so I appreciate you may well have not experienced the holiday period you would have liked. Hopefully, life will improve for us all again soon.

On 4th January, the Scottish Government confirmed the decision to put Scotland in a second Lockdown. This is due to significant increase in the number of positive cases of Covid19. We understand that this is not the news we would have liked to hear but we will continue to ensure that learning continues both in school and remotely until we can all return to school safely.

I want to once again thank you for your continued patience and support - it is greatly appreciated as we have tried to plan for our key worker and vulnerable learners and staff returning to school safely.

Learners have been grouped into age related groups and the table below details the groups and core staff who will support them with in-school learning. We are proposing that the core staff remain consistent throughout January, however we do ask you to be mindful that at times changes may need to be made.

Class Structure

	ELC	P1a, P1b,	P1/2 & P2	P2/3, P3 and P3/4	P3/4, P4, P4/5 and P5	P6a, P6b, P7a, P7b
Classroom	ELC	P1 Area	P1/2	P2/3	P4	P6b
Teachers/ ELC Team	Mrs Black Mrs Addie Ms Sinclair Ms Vass Mrs Murdoch Miss Haddow	Miss Brown	Miss Mullen	Miss Kerr	Mrs Thomson & Mrs McGurn (Split week)	Mr Thomson
Support by	Mr Souness Miss Bell Miss Wilson	Miss Hunter Mrs Cunningham	Miss Hunter Ms Stables	Mrs McGurn Mrs Knox	Mr Monghan	Mr Watters Mrs Aitken

During this time, the school day at **Newtongrange Primary School** will be:

- **Monday – Thursday 8:45am – 3:10pm**
- **Friday 8:45am – 12:20pm**

The ELC day at **Newtongrange Primary School** will be:

- **Monday – Thursday 8:30am – 3:00pm**
- **Friday 8:30am – 12:00pm**

Unfortunately at this time, we are not able to operate a breakfast or after school club.

Arrangements for dropping off and collecting your child

Parents and Carers will continue to follow the existing procedures for dropping off and collecting their children, to ensure that large gatherings of people are avoided and physical distancing between adults and children of different households is maintained.

ELC children will enter the ELC setting via the main ELC door. School children will arrive and enter the playground via the gate from the park.

We continue to request **that**:

- Families arrive at the school as close to the drop off/ pick up times as possible. If your child arrives late at school, please bring them to the school office, where a member of staff will welcome them into school.
- Only one parent or carer brings their child to school. Older children may walk to school on their own.
- Social distancing is maintained, parents and carers are asked not to stop and talk to others in the playground or congregate around the school gates.
- Adults wear face-coverings at drop off and pick up times.
- Families follow the one-way system at drop off and pick up times, entering from the park entrance and leaving via the car park.

Staff will be in the playground to welcome children and direct them to their lines and entry points.

In-school learning

Core in-school staff will provide quality learning experiences for your children. They will work in partnership with staff responsible for providing remote learning to ensure learning experiences are based on children's current learning targets.

Break times and Lunches

All children will be provided with a free school meal. Parents and carers will not be charged for this lunch. If preferred, children can still bring a packed lunch from home. Children will eat their lunch in their classrooms or our ELC setting to avoid mass gatherings of children in line with national guidance. Cleaning procedures will be implemented at lunch times.

Learners will go outside at break time and lunch time for free play in the playground. Our playground will be zoned into 5 separate areas to ensure learners do not mix with others who are not in their group. Learning Assistants will supervise outdoor play.

School Uniform

Where possible, we continue to encourage all children to wear school uniform, however during this time there is a relaxed attitude to dress code. School uniform/clothing should be washed/cleaned as normal.

PE Lessons

During the national lockdown, PE lessons are not permitted indoors, lessons will take place outdoors, weather dependent.

Safety measures to support Key Workers and Vulnerable Learner

We want to reassure you that our priority is to ensure our learners are safe and we continue to follow all advice and guidance, where health and safety sits at the heart of our plans, with risk assessments and infection prevention and control measures in place.

Midlothian Council continues to have a strict protocol in place for the reporting of suspected COVID cases, and the procedures to be followed by schools. Parents and carers must **NOT** send their child to school if they display any of the common symptoms:

- New continuous cough
- Fever/ high temperature
- Loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste (anosmia)

If a child displaying any of these symptoms is sent to school or becomes unwell during the school day, we will contact you and ask you to make arrangements to have your child collected immediately.

Further guidance on this can be found on the NHS Inform website: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/>

Enhanced cleaning routines will be implemented using products which are effective against bacteria and viruses, and there will be clear signage throughout school buildings to reinforce the infection prevention and control measures in place. Hand sanitisers will be at the entrances and in all appropriate areas across our school to enable learners and staff to hand sanitise regularly.

Please remember if it is possible for children to be at home during this exceptional period, until schools and ELC settings reopen fully, then they should be. Your children should only attend school when you are physically attending your workplace or cannot fulfil your critical functions when you are working remotely from home. Where alternative options are available e.g. where childcare/ remote learning can be provided or supported by one non key worker parent or carer who is able to work from home – these should be used instead of children attending school or their ELC setting. Please keep the school informed if your work commitments change at any point.

Finally, I would again take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks and understanding while we put into place our in-school learning provision. I understand how challenging it is to juggle home and working commitments. I am also very grateful to all our staff who are doing an incredible job in extremely challenging circumstances.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming children back into our school and ELC setting on Monday 11th January 2021.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards

Vicky Morgan
Head Teacher