

NEWTONGRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Sixth Street
Newtongrange
Midlothian EH22 4LB

Telephone: 0131 271 4645
Fax : 0131 654 2837
Email: newtongrange_ps@midlothian.gov.uk

EDUCATION DIVISION

Head Teacher
Miss V Morgan

**Midlothian**

Our Ref:

4th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

2021 has not started the way any of us would have liked. However over the last few weeks, overwhelmingly our children have been fantastic in engaging with remote learning and I would like to take this opportunity again to thank you for everything you are doing at home to support your child with their learning. We are living through the most extraordinary times and I recognise how challenging it is for families, for many different reasons. Please remember if we can support you and your children in any way, please contact us.

Today's letter, follows the announcement from the First Minister on Tuesday, regarding the proposed phased return to school.

Of course we are very keen to get all of our children back to school as soon as possible. However, we need to do everything we can to ensure that this is done in a way that is most effective in minimising risk and ensuring the safety of our learners, staff and school community.

The proposed school return from the 22nd February 2021, is for children within our ELC setting and P1-P3 to return to school fulltime. All other children, with the exception of vulnerable children and those of key workers, will continue with remote learning until further notice. The Scottish Government plans to confirm these decisions on Tuesday 16th February - providing sufficient progress in tackling the virus has been made.

As a school, we are busy putting plans in place to determine how this can be done, and will communicate further information with you following the announcement on Tuesday 16th February.

Following our February half term, Monday 15th February is an in-service day for staff and remote learning for the majority of our children will commence again from Tuesday 16th February. Children of key workers and our most vulnerable children will continue to attend school from this day also.

Key workers are reminded, 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. Children should only attend school when you are physically attending your workplace. 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 us informed if your work commitments change at any point.

All children who are learning in school will continue to receive a school lunch. Families whose children are learning remotely, and are eligible for free school meals, will continue to receive a BACS payments during this period.

Staffing Updates

Baby News! Congratulations to Mr S Peccerillo and his wife, on the birth of their baby girl a few weeks ago. Congratulations also to Miss L Williams in our ELC setting, who gave birth to a baby girl last week.

Miss S Williamson will be moving on from Newtongrange Primary School to take up a teaching post in East Lothian. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Williamson for her commitment to our school and wish her all the success in her new post. Miss Williamson's last day with us will be Friday 19th February.

We have been delighted to welcome Miss K Riddle to Newtongrange. Miss Riddle joined us a few weeks ago and will teach P5 until the end of term. She has been enjoying getting to know the class virtually through 'live' check-ins and their Google Classroom. We also look forwards to welcoming Mrs E Bonnar back to school following her maternity leave. Mrs Bonnar will return to school on 5th March working on a part time basis. It is anticipated, Mrs Bonnar will provide non class contact cover for teachers until the summer.

Upcoming Dates

Monday 15 th February	In-service day for staff
Tuesday 16 th February	Remote learning and in-school learning recommences
Friday 19 th February	Virtual Assemblies
Friday 26 th February	Virtual Assemblies

Although we are spending another school holiday in lockdown, I hope you still manage to have some fun, get outdoors and be active. If you are stuck for something to do, why not try and do some of our 50 things to do around Newtongrange challenge (grid attached) with your family!

Please take care, stay safe and we will see you soon!

Vicky Morgan
Head Teacher