



## Colgrain Primary School & Nursery

*'Inspiring all to Flourish'*

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### Phased Return for pupils – February 2021 Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Tuesday this week the First Minister announced the planned return of our Nursery, Primary 1, Primary 2 and Primary 3 aged children on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. This was a very welcome announcement for the team here in Colgrain who are eager to have the children back in school as soon as possible. We are hopeful that the following announcements will also provide the community with information on the return of our older children in the school.

As we prepare for the phased return of our younger children, we await some key guidance on any safety measures and further supports schools will put in place to ensure this happens safely for all the community. It will be important to continue safe bubbles of children and staff to limit any potential isolation requirements in the event that positive cases are identified within the school. There will be some changes to the pick-up and drop-off arrangements which will be shared with parents on the week beginning 15.02.21 to give planning time. These will be as minimal as possible and will reflect the systems in place where possible.

The school will also continue to run the Key Worker and Vulnerable pupil hub for P4 – 7 age children alongside the full return of Nursery – P3 children. Parents who have places currently will continue to access this using the fortnightly booking forms for places required.

Staff testing will be introduced with more guidance coming to provide us with information on how to implement and support this programme. We welcome the introduction of regular staff testing which will add to the current mitigations in place that all staff, pupils and parents have supported throughout and helped in continuing to safe-guard the Colgrain community this session.

I would like to reinforce the key messages from NHS Scotland:

If you or any of your family members living with you in your home develop any of the 3 symptoms:

- New persistent cough
- High temperature
- Loss or change in taste smell

You should book a test for the person displaying the symptoms and isolate at home with all family members until you have received a test result. Please also contact the school to share your situation with us.

On week days during school hours (8.30am – 4pm) you can contact the school via phone call / school enquiries email.

On evenings or weekends an email to my direct email address (Head teacher email) can be used and will be picked up. Argyll and Bute council will cover positive test result alerts during school holiday situations.

If your test result is negative you can update us and children should return to school or nursery as normal.

If your test result is positive you can update us with an anticipated isolation end date for our records. NHS Highlands track and trace will be in contact to identify all close contacts with you and will normally speak with school to gather any further information.

Please note: It is important to keep all children at home while awaiting a test result. If children have attended school and a test is required by someone in the family home during the day, please contact the office to pick up your child, we are happy to support any way that we can.

Primary 4 – 7 children

Our online learning provision has been structured in a way that will support any extension of lockdown situations for children. Our Primary 4, Primary 5, Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils have shown an amazing resilience in working so maturely at home. We are very proud of all they have achieved and will continue to achieve as we work through the current restrictions. It is our preference that we see all our children back together at the same time. While we cannot do this, please do share with your child in the P4-7 classes that we miss them greatly. They have our support and care, we will be with them during this extended lockdown in any way we can.

I would like to wish you all a relaxed February Week break. A massive thank you to all of our parents and carers, you have worked very hard to make the best of this for the children and it has not been an easy journey. Our online provision was created to help with keeping routines and provide maximum connections with children and staff which could not happen without parents support at home. Thank you to the children for the everyday things, just being themselves and trying their best! And thank you to all the staff online, in hub rooms and all around the school. It has been a place of positivity in the month of January! The whole community has shown time and again how we pull together which is wonderful to be part of.

Stay safe and take care,

Mrs Pauline Walsh

Head Teacher