

Summary of letter to mainstream school parents and carers, 12th June 2020

From Alistair Gaw, Executive Director for Communities and Families

The full text of the letter has been sent in English and can be viewed on the Council website here:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/27455/letter-to-mainstream-parents-and-carers>

Parents who need bilingual support may wish to use online translation tools such as Googletranslate (<https://translate.google.com/>). The 'document' option allows you to upload the document and select the language required.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

This is a challenging time for everyone and thank you for your patience, understanding and support. We are working very hard to make arrangements for pupils and staff to return safely to school.

Dates

Schools will re-open to pupils from Wednesday 12th August 2020. (Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th of August will be training days for staff.) The summer holidays in 2021 will begin one week earlier. The summer term will end on Friday 25th June 2021.

June

The month of June is being used as preparation for schools re-opening in August. Home learning is continuing throughout June. Children who need support for transition to a new school, and their families, will be invited to attend a transition meeting. Schools will contact these families to make appointments.

Blended Learning from August – what are the arrangements?

The new blended model of learning (part in-school and part home learning) will be an improvement on the current home learning but it is far from ideal. We will improve the arrangements as conditions allow.

In line with Scottish Government advice and Health Protection Scotland guidance, social distancing, hygiene regimes and risk assessments will be essential for keeping our children and staff safe. This means that not all children will be able to be in school all of the time. To allow social distancing, it is anticipated that 33% of pupils will be in school at any time. When conditions allow, we will increase the number of pupils in school.

When will my child be in school?

There will be a rota for days of in-home and in-school learning. Your school's Headteacher will contact you before 24th June to tell you which days your child will be in school.

In all schools, the in-school learning will happen between Monday and Thursday. On Fridays, staff will support home learning. Limited Key Worker childcare support will continue throughout the week (Monday – Friday) during normal school hours at each child's school. On the days that children are in school, they will attend for whole days.

In Early Learning (nursery) and Primary schools, children will be grouped to allow family members to attend school on the same day. In Secondary, pupils will be grouped together either by year group or family group depending on the arrangements made by the school.

Catering and building opening

Headteachers will contact parents before the end of session with details of arrangements.

Please be assured that we are working to make sure schools are ready for your children to return in August. While learning and teaching is crucially important, the health and safety of children, young people and adults in schools is paramount and will be at the heart of all we do.