



New Term Update
Monday 10th January 2022



Dear Parents and Carers

Pupil Return to School and Nursery

We hope you have had a lovely festive break and that you and your loved ones have kept safe and well. Many thanks from all of the staff team for the thoughtful Christmas wishes, cards and gifts received prior to the holidays. Although these were not expected, they are very much appreciated by us all – so thank you.

We are delighted to be welcoming your children back to St Andrew’s Primary School and Nursery. For those children who will be joining us for the first time, we are looking forward to getting to know you and your families over the coming weeks and months.

As you will be aware, Scottish Government have made some changes to COVID guidance over recent weeks. Staff at St Andrew’s Primary will be following this guidance closely, along with supporting guidance from Midlothian Council. In the meantime we hope that you will find the following, additional information helpful in preparing for your child’s smooth return to school.

All current nursery and school pupils will return on Tuesday 11th January 2022. New nursery pupils should start as detailed in their New Start letter.

Pupil Arrival and Dismissal:

In line with current guidance, we will continue to operate a staggered start and finish. **Please note that due to staffing availability, we are unable to give pupils access to the school building before their scheduled start time. To avoid unnecessary waiting, during cold and wet weather, we advise that pupils arrive as close to their given start time as possible. Thank you.**

Class	Arrival time	Dismissal time Mon - Thurs	Dismissal time Friday	Entry Point	Exit Point
Nursery	8:30	3:00	12:30	Nursery gate	Nursery gate
P1	8:50	3:20	12:05	P1 fire door	P1 fire door
P2	8:40	3:10	11:55	P2 fire door	P2 fire door
P3	8:40	3:10	11:55	P3 fire door	Pupils will be walked to the main school gate by school staff
P4	8:40	3:10	11:55	P4 fire door	Pupils will be walked to the main school gate by school staff
P5	8:40	3:10	11:55	P5 fire door	Pupils will be walked to the main school gate by school staff
P6	8:50	3:20	12:05	P6 fire door	Pupils will be walked to the main school gate by school staff
P7	8:45	3:15	12:00	P7 fire door	Pupils will be walked to the main school gate by school staff

Morning Drop Off:

- There will continue to be no vehicle access to school grounds except for pupil taxis, blue badge holders and staff. A member of management will be present at the school gate to supervise/manage access.
- We request that each pupil is accompanied by **no more than 2 adults**, when entering the school grounds. Whilst we ask that all P1 and P2 pupils are dropped off and collected by an adult, school staff will be on duty outdoors to supervise P3-7 pupils who are happy to say farewell to their parents/carers at the main school gate. We understand that some of these pupils may still wish a parent to accompany them for a time, and that is fine.
- Pupils will be asked to sanitise their hands before entering the classroom and then to wash them thoroughly once inside.
- Should pupils arrive shortly after their designated start time, they should still report to their classroom door, where a member of staff will welcome them.
- **Pupils arriving after 9:00 should report to the main school office to register.**
- Only pupils arriving by contract taxi or with the prior agreement of school management should access the school building via the main entrance. They will be met there by a member of staff and then escorted to their classroom.

End of Day Dismissal

- At the end of the school day staff will escort P3-7 classes to the school gate for prompt dismissal at their designated finish time.
- Where possible, we would ask that parents/carers of older pupils meet them out-with the main school gate maintaining 1m distance from other households.
- P1 and P2 pupils will be dismissed from their classroom fire door. School policy remains that P1 and P2 pupils **must** be collected by an adult (someone over the age of 16), from the list provided by their parent/carer. If for any reason an adult is not present, at class dismissal time, then the pupil will return to their classroom, with staff, until their parent can be contacted.
- Please phone the main school office if you know that you are going to be late to collect your child, at the end of the day, or if there is any change to the agreed pick up routine.
- We would appreciate if all adults could exit the school grounds and pick-up areas promptly, at the end of the day, to avoid congestion and support 1m distancing.
- As with the morning drop off procedures, there will be no vehicle access to school grounds except for pupil taxis, blue badge holders and staff. A member of management will be present at the school gate to supervise/manage access.
- Pupils may continue to use bikes or scooters to travel to school. **For the safety reasons, all pupils must dismount from these at the main gate and push them to the designated rack to be stored safely.**

Face Coverings

In line with recent guidance we would ask that all adults, unless exempt, continue to wear a face covering whilst in our school grounds. Primary age pupils are not required to wear a face covering but are welcome to do so if they wish.

Physical Distancing

We continue to ask that parents and carers avoid congregating in and around our school grounds and that a 1m distance is maintained from other households. Thank you.

COVID Symptoms and Isolation

- In light of the Omicron variant school staff will be vigilant to any potential signs of Covid-19 and will always err on the side of caution by contacting parents and carers. Please ensure that contact details are kept up to date. **In keeping with updated guidance, if a pupil attends the school with symptoms of cough and/ or high temperature, they will be sent home immediately.**
- Should pupils need to wait to be collected by their parent or carer, they will be isolated in a private, well ventilated room/area. Isolation rooms will be cleaned after use in keeping with National Guidance.
- If your child or anyone in your household develops any **symptoms** of COVID-19, the symptomatic person **must not come to school, they must self-isolate and should have a PCR test as soon as possible.** The rest of the household are not required to self-isolate whilst the test result is awaited, but they are advised to do daily LFD tests and monitor closely for any symptoms developing. Further information and guidance can be found in [NHS Inform](#).
- Pupils who **do not have symptoms** but who **test positive on a Lateral Flow test should also isolate and register the result with Test and Protect.** Parents and Carers should contact the school office to notify staff of the absence and to be directed to appropriate guidance regarding isolation arrangements.
- Further information on testing can also be found on www.nhsinform.scot or by phoning 119 if you cannot book online.
The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of: new continuous cough; high temperature; or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

Remote Learning

- For pupils requiring to isolate at home, class teachers have posted Learning Grids on the St Andrew's PS website. The grids contain a variety of learning activities for your child to complete, should they feel well enough. The grids will also be supplemented by additional tasks on your child's Google Classroom, where this is practicable. Should your child require the use of a Chrome Book, stationery or password reminders, please do not hesitate to contact our school office and we will be happy to help. **Please note: there is no expectation for pupils to complete work whilst they are unwell.**

Lunches

- Nursery pupils will continue to receive free snack and lunchtime meal each day.
- **All P1-5 pupils** are now entitled to free school meals, should they wish. These are ordered through our main school office, who will be happy to advise you on menu choices etc. We are aware that some of our pupils would prefer to bring a packed lunch from home, which is fine. We ask that these to not contain fizzy juice or items with nuts. Lunches should be contained in a bag or plastic box.
- All P6-7 pupils should continue to bring a packed lunch to school, until further notice.
- BACs payments will resume, as per previous advice, for those P6-7 pupils entitled to free school meals. **Payments will be in Parent/Carer bank accounts on Tuesday 11th January and cover 11th January to 5th February.**
- Pupils are **not** required to bring a packed lunch on a Friday.
- P1-7 pupils will eat lunch in their classroom, until further notice. Hands and surfaces will be thoroughly sanitised before and after eating.

- **Only a Sandwich option will be available to pupils this week**, to enable our school kitchen to adapt to revised catering arrangements. Hot meal options will be available starting Monday 17th January. New menus will follow separately.

School Clothing/PE Kit

- Due to an increased emphasis on ventilation and outdoor learning it is important that pupils are dressed in warm clothing during the winter months. Whilst it is lovely to see everyone dressed in their school uniform – pupils are welcome to bring additional sweatshirts or hoodies should they be required.
- A number of surplus clothing and uniform items are available, via our Home School Practitioner, Elaine Baur. Please feel free to contact Elaine on 07500 125 086 if you are interested in receiving any of these items or require support with clothing or other matters.
- Please ensure that **all** of your child's clothing (including shoes) is clearly named.
- Pupils should continue to come to school in sports clothing on days that they have PE. Days and times will be confirmed with you and your child, early in the new term, via a newsletter from the class teacher.

School Bags

- Pupils are welcome to bring a bag to school if they wish. However we would ask that **pupils do not bring toys or other personal items from home**. This includes fidget toys and similar items, which should remain at home unless previously agreed with teaching staff as part of an individual Child Learning Plan.

Medication

- Please contact the school office, by either phone call or email, if your child requires medication to be administered during the school day, eg: inhalers. Our office staff will advise you on when to bring this medication and will arrange for you to complete the appropriate paperwork.
- Please ensure that any medication is in date and clearly labelled with your child's name and the dosage required. Please note that pupils requiring inhalers should have **2 which will be kept in school**. One inhaler will be accessible to your child at all times and another will be kept in the school office as a back-up.

Contacting School

- We understand that the Christmas period has been a busy and exciting time for families. Please be assured that we are focussed on getting it right for every one of our pupils, and that we will do our utmost to ensure a smooth start to the new term. We will continue to keep you updated regularly via parent text, email, Twitter and our school website.
- As we are currently being advised to keep visitors to our building to a minimum, we would ask that you contact our school office by either phone call or email, in the first instance, should you have any queries or questions. Our office staff will be happy to advise you. Thank you.

Joanne Hunter (Acting Leader of Learning)