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North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Your Ref: Our Ref: CA/AMcC/LB

If telephoning please call: 01294 324416

5 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Pupil Return to School

You will all be aware that the Scottish Government announced last week a proposed phased return to school for some children and young people.

They have made this decision based on the current balance of evidence, and the plan is that Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) and primaries 1 to 3 could reopen in full from 22 February, subject to a continued decrease in the levels of community transmission and in the prevalence of the virus. The most recent modelling also suggests that there would be a low risk of breaching NHS capacity if a very small cohort of senior phase pupils also returned from 22 February on a limited basis for the purpose of practical assessment for the alternative certification model for national qualifications.

Once the return dates are confirmed, your child's Head Teacher or Head of ELC Centre will contact you with specific information relating to your child.

To support this phased return to school, the use of Lateral Flow Device (LFD) home testing for senior phase pupils and staff is also planned. From 8th February these tests will begin to be delivered to all schools for staff and senior phase pupils only. Participation in this testing programme is voluntary and no one will be prevented from attending school if they do wish to take a test. The test kits will be issued to staff and pupils attending school buildings and parental consent will be required from senior phase pupils under the age of 16. Full details about how to administer the tests and record the results will be issued to the staff and pupils concerned.

We will be back in touch with further information once it is known. In the meantime, please contact your child's school if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Andrew McClelland
Head of Service (Education)

Caroline Amos
Head of Service (Education)