



10 March 2021

Dear Parent

I hope this finds you safe and well. Thank you for your patience while we have been waiting for our plan for a phased return to school to be approved.

I would like to reiterate that the following restrictions limit the number of pupils able to attend school from 15 March until 26 March 2021:

- the requirement for all pupils to observe 2m social distancing significantly constrains the number of pupils in the school building
- the design of our school does not facilitate many pupils being in the building at one time due to the need to maintain 2m distancing and controlled movement around the building

The majority of our pupils use school transport and the following restrictions therefore have a major impact on our offer:

- there are limits to the number of pupils buses can carry, given the 1m restrictions
- buses operating at the start and end of each school day mean that pupils have to attend school for the whole day

The Scottish Government is clear that priority to attend school should be given to senior phase pupils; however, we have created a plan which allows all students some contact in school before the holiday period. This increased offer is in addition to pupils who have been attending school since January for the childcare hub and additional support. These groups can continue to attend as before. As the letter from Moray Council's Chief Education Officer outlined, requests for the childcare hub must be kept to an absolute necessity, where no other option for childcare exists.

A pack will be posted on Thursday which will include detailed information about the measures in place, individual timetables and COVID-19 testing kits for pupils who have completed the necessary consent forms. On Friday, a summary of this information will be sent by email to parents and uploaded to the pupil information channel 'MHS pupil info' on Teams.

Phased return from 15 March 2021 – 26 March 2021		
Day of the week	Pupils in school	Notes
Monday	All S4-6	Timetables will be released
Tuesday	All S4-6	
Wednesday	All S3	
Thursday	Week 1 – All S1 only Week 2 – All S2 only	Pupils in S4-6 already attending for practical subjects may be included - information on timetable to be issued
Friday	Some S4-S6	Pupils in S4-6 already attending for practical subjects may be included - information on timetable to be issued

We will treat the final two weeks of term as one school week in that work will be uploaded on Monday 15 March due for completion by 26 March. The time that pupils spend in school will replace staff availability on Teams as pupils will be able to benefit from face-to-face learning once again.

School transport will operate as normal and pupils can order a break or in-school lunch provision on the morning of their attendance. The school start and finish time will be as normal, however, to comply with directives to minimise movement, pupils will remain in subject areas for blocks of time. Pupils will be expected to wear school uniform, as is currently the case for those already attending school.

In effect, pupils can return to school with the following measures in place:

- Pupils report straight to agreed classroom, maintain 2m distancing from other pupils and staff
- Pupils to wear a face covering at all times, unless we have been notified of an exemption
- Pupils to stay in their timetabled areas, including during breaks and lunchtime
- Pupils to follow the hand-washing and sanitising routines
- Senior phase pupils will continue to be offered testing

Although these measures may seem restrictive, they are necessary based on the need for maximising available space and ensuring the safety of the school community. In addition, we need to be mindful that increased pupil return is dependent on the continuation of progress being made in the wider community to facilitate final decisions by local and national government.

If you have any questions about COVID-19 testing kits, please contact our school office.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and support and we will be in touch later this week with more information.

Best regards



Mrs T Cameron
Head Teacher