



# MILNGAVIE PRIMARY SCHOOL & EYC

## June 2020

### School Information



## Milngavie Primary - Reopening of School

*Our school team acknowledge and sympathise with the frustrations you are currently feeling. At times of crisis it is commonplace for communications to come to you directly from East Dunbartonshire Education. This corporate response can mean that the level of communication you would normally expect from the school is curtailed. This can create anxiety. Please be assured that, as a school, we too are working in a real time situation and receive information, which we forward to you directly. We would ask you to be cognisant, however, that much could change over the next 6 weeks. To that end, we will be working over the summer period to adapt our plans and will share many of the finer details in relation to managing our return, responding to the situation as it evolves.*

*Staff at Milngavie Primary School are working hard to ensure children and young people can return to our school safely. Understandably, parents / carers will have a lot questions about how our school will operate in August. This is a complex and fast moving situation and we are happy to share some details with you now. Pupils will return in small groups being termed 'Bubbles'. To accompany this update, information will follow to provide you with details of your child's 'bubble', the days they will attend school and their teacher. At the time of writing we are awaiting details of a member of staff and we will advise you as soon as possible.*

*In August, we have to plan first and foremost on the basis of safety. We need to ensure that your child and the staff in our school are as safe as possible and that the opportunity for viral transmission is reduced as far as possible.*

*For all children, and particularly young children, it is going to feel very different going back to school with new structures and routines in place. The intention of this update is to help parents/carers and children prepare for these changes. We hope you find it helpful!*

### What will be the same?

We will still be the welcoming, nurturing school we always are and wellbeing will continue to be a priority. This will underpin our practice in developing children's resilience and supporting their transition back into school. Risk assessments will take account of the needs of all of our staff and children including physical and medical needs.

The majority of our staffing in school remains unchanged so we hope seeing familiar faces is reassuring for you all. We are certainly really looking forward to welcoming the children back as we have missed them all so much.

On our return Nurture and wellbeing will be at the heart of our work. Literacy and Numeracy will also be a focus for our curriculum planning. Children and staff are becoming more skilled in the use of digital technology to enhance learning.

We will be planning to make full use of our outdoor space on our return. Note that some landscaping in the vicinity of the new pitch which may have some impact.

**We will continue to keep parents informed, as information is released over the summer, through our usual communication channels (Twitter, Website, Groupcall).**

## How are we making sure school is safe?

We will use risk assessments to minimise risks before we open and on our return in line with Scottish Government guidance.

We will continue the practice of regular handwashing. Good respiratory hygiene – sneezing or coughing into a tissue, binning the tissue and washing hands will be reinforced.

To ensure our school is as safe as possible for children and staff, arrangements will be put in place to accommodate physical distancing. This will significantly reduce capacity as there will be less children in a room together, so not all children will be able to attend at the same time.

We will make changes to the school day such as staggered starts and finishes, as well as timings of breaks and lunchtimes to ensure physical distancing. We will need to use all of the doors on to our school grounds and buildings to support with this. We will provide this information closer to the start of the new term so that the information is fresh in your minds.

We will utilise as much of our indoor space to maximise the number of children we can accommodate. This might require the use of some communal space.

Transport arrangements for pupils who use school transport are currently being reviewed by the Local Authority.



## What might change? (we will provide you with more detail nearer the start of next session)

- The **TIME** you drop off and pick up your child might be different.
- **WHERE** you drop off and pick up your child might be different.
- There will be no lining up to ensure physical distancing at entrances. Staff will be at every entrance and in the playground to ensure safe entry to school.
- Children's belongings will be relocated to their designated learning space rather than in communal areas to reduce viral transmission. This is to reduce the need for movement around the school building.
- Children are likely to remain in their individual learning space unless accessing outdoor learning to help maintain 2 metres distancing guidance.
- Lunches are likely to be consumed in designated learning spaces.
- There will be no access to water fountains throughout the day, so please ensure your child comes to school with any refreshments they need.
- There will be no assemblies or large group gatherings.
- We will have to limit the access that parents / carers and visitors have to the school building and will be encouraging communication via email and phone calls. Any visitors (such as contractors) will be asked to follow strict infection control procedures.
- Any meetings with staff are likely to take place in a virtual format.
- IT platforms we may adopt as we transition to a blended learning model may be different.

## What can parents / carers do to help?

### Things to do at home now

- Continue with the practice of regular handwashing and maintaining social distance.
- Explain that physical distancing will be important and that although we have all missed each other, it is important that we keep each other safe.
- Prepare children by explaining that things will look different in school
- Have a clear focus on your child's wellbeing, supporting them to feel safe and nurtured, encouraging them to feel positive about their return to school.
- We will constantly have to look at new ways of working and will seek your views as we look to make any changes.

### Things that will keep us all safe on return to school

We understand that some of the practices we pride ourselves upon cannot continue for now. This is to ensure we are all safe and healthy in school. Please support us with the following:

- If your child (or any member of your household) is symptomatic or unwell in any way, there should be strict adherence to Scottish Government guidelines. Children should NOT attend school when unwell.
- Ensure your child is on time is for their designated drop off /pick up.
- Ensure your child is prepared for the school day, including packed lunch if advised, water bottle and clothing for all weather!
- Unfortunately, staff will not be available for face-to-face conversation at this time. Whilst we look for other ways of communicating we are always at the end of a phone if and when you need us.
- Avoid coming to school in groups outwith your household.
- Ensure physical distancing in waiting areas (particularly at drop off and pick up).
- Avoid using the school office.

### A Fond Farewell to our fantastic P7's

It is of huge regret that we can't give you the end of term send off that you so rightly deserve. You have been an outstanding group of young people of whom we are all so proud. We are particularly proud of how you have conducted yourself to this most monumental of changes. Take all of this unexpected, yet new learning with you as you continue into the next phase of your education. Here is a picture to remind you all of a happier time. Just now, more than ever we need to focus on the positives and look forward to a day when you can take part in another experience as fantastic as Ardmay was.



## Last Words from Mrs Orr

*To the wide Milngavie School Community, it has been a great pleasure to have worked with you all over the last 20 years. I wish all the pupils and staff the best for the new term when it comes. In particular, I want to wish the Primary 7 pupils all the best. We are leaving the school at a very strange time and will miss saying our goodbyes.*

*I plan to embrace the future and all it offers, but will miss all the wonderful pupils and staff who make Milngavie School such a special place and wish them all the best.*

*Liz Orr, DHT, Milngavie Primary School*



## Summer recess

It seems ironic to be wishing you a all a good summer break.

We are however all becoming tired and seeking to return to our familiar routines. We very much hope that the summer will see a further easing of restrictions and allow everyone an opportunity to engage in activities to support mental health and well-being.

We appreciate just how hard it remains as we move forward into yet further uncharted and, at times, confusing territory.

As we have said, further information will follow. We don't want to send out too much too soon, only to undo things down the line.

Try and find time to relax with your family in the coming weeks. We know that we all have many personal and work related challenges in the coming weeks. We will be here in August to support you as best we can.

Fond regards, Garry

## SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

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