



Education Resources
Executive Director **Tony McDaid**
St. John the Baptist Primary School – Head Teacher Marie Beacom
Part of Holy Cross Learning Community

Date: 24/06/20

Recovery Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will no doubt be aware, The Deputy First Minister, John Swinney, provided an update to the Scottish Parliament yesterday in which he stated:

“If we stay on track, if we all continue to do what is right, and if we can further suppress this terrible virus, the Government believes that we should prepare for children to return to school full time in August.”

Yesterday’s announcement outlining the ambition for a full return of pupils, although a surprise, is something that we would all welcome.

We have spent 3 weeks intensively planning and preparing for your children to return to school with a reduced capacity in order to keep them safe. Our professionalism and vocation to your children is such that we will work throughout the holidays to plan for their safe return to full time education in August if this is still applicable.

I am also sure that we will all receive further information from a national perspective that will help us in our preparations. At all times, my overriding priority will be to ensure the safety of our children and staff.

I ask for your continuous patience and will communicate with you as soon as I have any further updates and will also endeavour to ensure this is done to give families as much time as possible to make any necessary arrangements.

In the meantime, we thank God that no child or parent in our family that is St. John the Baptist Primary School and Nursery Class has succumbed to this terrible disease. We look forward to a future, which is uncertain but filled with hope.

Thank you for your continuous support and I hope that all families have a lovely, restful (and sunny!) Summer.

Take care and stay safe,

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Beacom
Head Teacher

90 North British Road, Uddingston G71 7AG Phone: 01698 813540 Fax: 01698 811276
Email: office@st-johnthebaptist-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk



A letter from Tony McDaid, Executive Director of Education Resources

Dear Parent/Carer

Information Update – 24 June 2020

Normally the last day of the summer term is a time when parents, carers and families are able to reflect and to celebrate the progress and achievements their children have made during the school year.

There is no doubt this year has been one of significant change for all of us. However, it has not been one without hope and inspiration and I have witnessed the way in which families and young people have supported each other, as well as some of the outstanding work that that has taken place between schools and families.

Yesterday's announcement by the Deputy First Minister outlining the ambition for a full return to schools for pupils in August, if it is safe to do so, is something that we would all welcome. He said: *'If we stay on track, if we all continue to do what is right, and if we can further suppress this terrible virus, the Government believes that we should prepare for children to be able to return to school full time in August.'*

It is very important that we support our children and young people following on from what I am sure will have been one of the most significant periods in their lifetime. I delighted to have seen how excited our P1 and P7 pupils have been when we have had some of them in our schools during the past week or so. Of course, there are considerable logistical issues that we will need to address, such as what does getting back to normal look like, issues around transport and, of course, how we welcome our children and young people back. I would wish to reassure you that this will be the focus for our team during the summer period.

I am now waiting on further national advice and guidance that will help guide us in our preparations. I will be back in contact over the summer when we have some specific information about the restart in August. I am acutely aware that you only have a note of our blended learning plans, which if deemed safe to do so, will need to be changed for a full return of all pupils in August.

We will continue to work closely with our council colleagues, professional associations and trade union partners and keep you updated. Schools close today for their summer break, and staff have been working extremely hard in setting up classrooms, preparing resources and arrangements, much of which we will build on for August.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support.

Take care and stay safe.

Tony McDaid
Executive Director of Education Resources
South Lanarkshire Council
Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton ML3 0AA
Phone: 01698 454379
email: Tony.Mcdaid@southlanarkshire.gov.uk
Council website: www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

