Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and understanding throughout our time of school closure, and as we prepare for re-opening of our school in August.

I would like to share important information with you now, regarding your child’s return to school. Please be aware that these arrangements could be changed in response to changes in the national picture.

We have emailed parents directly with your child’s group for August. If you have not received this email please contact the school as soon as possible on 0141 634 4238.

**Attendance Arrangements**

Following government guidelines and social distance requirements, our school will no longer be able to operate with all of our children in the building at one time. We will therefore be working on a lower daily capacity to facilitate all of our learners over the week. We can meet the government requirement of having 50% of our pupils in school.

**Each child will be have 2 full days in school which will be complemented by 3 days blended learning at home.** We have ensured that all siblings attend the school on the same days. The model we are using is:

**Children attending on a Monday/Tuesday will be called Group A**

**Children attending on a Thursday/Friday will be called Group B.**

South Lanarkshire Council has indicated to schools that it is expected that children will be back at school from **Wednesday 12th August** and, given the length of time our children and young people have not been in school, arrangements should be made to ensure all children attend at some point that week. This means that the practicalities of Week 1 will look a bit different from subsequent weeks as all pupils are expected to experience some introductory time back in school during these three days. Therefore the model for week 1 will be as follows:

**Tuesday 11 August 2020** In-service day – Staff only in school

**Wednesday 12 August 2020** Group A – introductory day

**Thursday 13 and Friday 14 August** Group B – introductory days

**From Monday 17 August pupils will attend on the days as outlined above for their group.**

 **Teachers for Session 2020-21**

The teachers for next session have been allocated as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Teacher** | **Class** | **Teacher** | **Class** |
| Mrs Finnigan | P1 Group A | Mrs Thomson | P1 Group B |
| Mrs Roberts | P2 Group A | Mrs Roberts | P2 Group B |
| Mr Anderson | P3 Group A | Mr Anderson | P2 Group B |
| Mrs Tognini | P4 Group A | Mrs Tognini | P4 Group B |
| Miss Daly | P5 Group A | Miss Daly | P5 Group B |
| Mrs Linskey | P6 Group A | Mrs Sutherland | P6 Group B |
| Mr Preston | P7 Group A | Mr Preston | P7 Group B |

If full capacity of the school is reintroduced each class would combine their A & B groups.

**Children entering the School**

As advised by the Scottish Government, social distancing measures will be adhered to by both pupils and staff within the school. All classrooms have been reorganised to ensure that each pupil has the required 2m distance between desks and elements of the school day such as start time, playtimes, lunchtimes and the end of the school day will all be staggered to ensure this.

**To ensure safety the school carpark will be closed to all parents and only available for staff and blue badge holders.**

To ensure our playgrounds don’t get too congested and social distancing is adhered to, entry will be staggered and your child will be allocated an entry /exit door depending on the class they are working in. This will help to minimise movement throughout the school.

Entry times are outlined below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Start Times (A&B) | Finish Times (A&B) | Pupils |
| 8.50am | 2.50pm | P1, P2, P3 & their siblings |
| 9.00am | 3.00pm | Rest of P4 – P7  |

Children will not line up outside the building but enter through the following doors. Each door will be open and children will proceed to their classroom.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| P1, 2, 3 & 4 | Own classroom door |
| P5, 6 & 7 | Main staircase next to P4 & toilets |

Children will leave the building from the following exit points.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| P 1 - 4 | Own class door |
| P 5 -7 | Staircase at lift & exit through fire door |

Please ensure your child knows where to meet the adult who is collecting them.

Please note that there will be no Breakfast Club or after school Clubs running on our return in August, until further notice.

**School Lunch Arrangements**

There is recognition that due to physical distancing requirements the number of meals that can be taken in our dining area in any one sitting will be significantly reduced, (even with family members sitting together), and that separate lunch breaks will be necessary, supplemented with the delivery of a packed lunch to classrooms in order to ensure lunch provision is managed in a safe and timely manner.

The process for lunch service will be as follows:

* Pre-ordering will continue in the same way
* Payments via ParentPay will continue.
* Pupils with special dietary requirements or allergies will continue to be catered for.
* Packed lunches are allowed.
* Hands will be washed/sanitised before and after eating.

Communal water areas can be accessed with the requirement to sanitise hands before and after use. Children will be encouraged to bring their own filled water bottle for use during the day.

Facilities Services have produced the menu for the new school session. This will be posted on the school website.

**School Uniform**

We are proud of our uniform and it remains unchanged for August. We feel this is important as, with so many changes being put in place, we want to create the most authentic school experience we can under present circumstances and our uniform plays a big part in our school identity. We recognise the need for regular changing and washing. For this reason pupils can wear polo shirts with their school trousers /shorts/ skirt pinafore. Shoes should be black and suitable for outdoors as they will not be changed. We will be engaging in outdoor learning so please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Pupils will be sitting at their individual desks and their blazer/jacket will hang over their seat.

Information relating to our school opening will be posted on our school website <http://www.st-marks-rutherglen-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk/index.htm> and school app. Please ensure you check these regularly for updates.

Thank you again for your co-operation and all the support and guidance you have provided your children with during this difficult time. We very much look forward to the children returning.

Kind regards

Mrs O’Donnell