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Dear Parents/Carers

After today's announcement by Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister, I can confirm that Barthol Chapel School will return on Wednesday 12th August at 9:15am to provide fulltime education. Pupils in Primary 2-7 will return on this day. Our new Primary 1 pupils will start school the following day, Thursday 13th August at 9:15am. Please note that Primary 1 pupils will attend school for half days only until Friday 21st August and will finish at 12:30pm.

I do hope we have a school session without any disruptions, however the one lesson we have all learned from the pandemic is that we do not know what the future will hold. It is important for me to still stress that our school plans for blended learning will be activated if the spread of the virus requires us to. Things could change at very short notice, for example if staff are required to self-isolate. I need to be honest with you and stress that this could result in me having to close the school to a particular class or whole school if I do not have enough staff. I sincerely hope that I do not need to do this, but it is important for me to be open and transparent with you.

Risk assessments and safety measures will remain focused on the key elements which will reduce the spread of the virus. This will include regular hand washing, reducing shared items, enhanced cleaning etc. Staff **will need** to remain 2m physically distant from pupils and other staff members and we will do this as sympathetically as possible. Staff may choose to wear face coverings. Pupils will not need to stay socially distant from each other.

Drop off and collection at school will remain as normal, apart from the fact that all parent/carers and staff will need to maintain 2 meters distancing. If you are required to enter the school building to collect your child or for any other reason, we politely ask that you wear a face covering. If you need to speak to a member of staff we ask that you telephone the school.

At this stage we ask that children do not take their own pencils, pencil cases etc. into school. Children can take a school bag with them if they need to carry a packed lunch. We will not be sending reading books home at this stage. School uniform is welcome but is not compulsory. It is important that children come to school in clean clothing. We also ask that children have a pair of indoor shoes with them as normal.



As the symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to a wide range of other illnesses, it is vital that we are all very vigilant. If we have concerns regarding symptoms that your child develops during the school day, we will contact you to collect your child immediately and arrange a test. I also ask that if you are aware of or concerned about any symptoms that your child develops at home, please do not send them to school. As we get closer to the cold/flu season this will become more difficult but we all must take the necessary steps to protect everyone in our school.

We need to ensure that you all consider a self-declaration process before sending your child to school.

BARTHOL CHAPEL SCHOOL COVID-19 SELF-DECLARATION



I can confirm that my child **does not have**:

- a high temperature or fever
- a new continuous cough
- loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste

I can confirm my child **does not** live with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19.

YES, I CAN CONFIRM = Child **CAN** attend school

NO, I CANNOT CONFIRM = Child **CANNOT** attend school

At this stage, I cannot confirm school transport arrangements.

As I mentioned in my previous communication, School Meals will be provided as normal. The first two weeks of term will follow a slightly different menu pattern. The children can select a 'Hot Option' or a 'Cold Option'. The menu can be found here:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25375/primarymenustailored2weeks.pdf>

From Week 3, week beginning Monday 24th August, the menu cycle will revert to the standard cycle. The menu for this can be found here:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25272/interactivemenusspringsummer2020d.pdf>

Please look carefully at the dates at the top of the menu.

Please take care and we look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

Yours sincerely

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Mr Adrian Anderson
Head Teacher

