**Houston Primary School and**

**EL&CC**

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|   | *school logo* **C:\Users\phopyrae1\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Outlook\F4CG9WSW\jigsaw.jpg** **Children’s Services** |  |
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**Crosslee Road**

**Houston**

**PA6 7EJ**

**Tel: 0300 300 0159**

**18 February 2021**

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope everyone is well and coping with the challenges of lockdown restrictions and, of course, supporting online learning. I am sure many of you are as pleased as myself and the team at Houston Primary at the First Minister’s confirmation that all children from Nursery to Primary 3 will return full time from Monday 22 February. We eagerly await confirmation of dates for our older learners.

**EL&CC and Primary 1-3**

Mrs Johnston has posted a Thinglink in the P1-3 children’s Google Classrooms to help them prepare for the return to school on Monday. There is also a version for children returning to our EL&CC. The link will be e-mailed to parents and made available in the EL&CC Google Classroom. All P1-3 children should wear their school uniform - sports clothing can be worn on P.E. days as this will mainly take place outdoors. The Director of Children’s Services, Steven Quinn, issued a communication regarding our return to school and I have included the link for your information should you require it.

[www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/schoolsupdate-1702](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/schoolsupdate-1702)

**Primary 4-7 Children**

We understand that this news might be frustrating for our P4-7 children who are also looking forward to getting back to learning in school and the social contact that it offers. We appreciate that the children and parents have worked incredibly hard and have demonstrated an impressive commitment in terms of their engagement during this current lockdown. Arrangements for remote learning for children in P4-7 will continue as they currently stand.

**Parent/Carer Online Learning Survey**

Thank you to all those who responded to the survey about online learning which was issued by the local authority recently. We have been given a copy of the submitted comments from Houston parents/carers. We thank so many of you for your very positive comments however, we would wish to pick up on anything that we can further improve upon.

The survey was anonymous so we’re unable to contact individuals directly and we’d appreciate if you could get in touch with us using houstonenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk..

The staff remain committed to working hard, learning new digital skills, and incorporating new approaches to enhance the children’s online learning experiences. It’s important to gather the children’s views about their online learning experiences too. Thank you to all the children In P4-7 who have completed our recent online learning survey. We will use this valuable information to evaluate and plan our next steps as we move forward with online learning.

All going well in terms of community transmission, we hope to see everyone back at school before too long. All our risk assessments have been reviewed in line with the requirements for a return to the school and EL&CC buildings. Staff are clear on the mitigations in place to keep everyone safe whilst in and around school and EL&CC. We have the addition of twice weekly asymptomatic testing available to all staff working here at Houston.

I am certain that most of the children in our EL&CC to P3 will be excited at the prospect of seeing their friends and teachers again next week

**Early Learning & Childcare Class**

The staff in our EL&CC are excitedly preparing for the return of our youngest learners next week. Children should attend their usual allocated pattern. If your child is attending for the first time, following a recent 3rd birthday, a member of our EL&CC team should have been in touch already to discuss settling-in arrangements. If you have any concerns or anxieties about the return to EL&CC, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Miss Anderson or Mrs Greenhorn by emailing them at houstonenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk.

**Hub**

The children in P4-7 who have already been allocated provision in our Hub should continue to attend wearing their casual clothes. If for any reason the days you require your child to attend changes, please contact the school office to advise so that we may update our records. Priority, as always, is given to families where both parents/carers are designated as a Keyworker, no one is working from home and there is no alternative childcare. In line with government guidelines if your circumstances change and there are days where an adult is at home, that’s where your child/ren should also be.

**Routines inc. Drop Off and Collection**

Arrangements for drop off and collection from our EL&CC and school will remain as they were prior to lockdown. To minimise risk, we kindly ask that only one adult from each household drops off or collects children and that everyone observes 2 metre physical distancing, where possible, and wears a face covering. We must all play our part to ensure the transmission rate of the virus continues to drop, so that we can welcome back P4-7 children sooner rather than later.

School Transport provision remains for all children who qualify.

School lunches resume their service as per August – Dec. It will be week 2.

**Staffing**

We welcome to the Houston staff Ms Laura Szuster. She joins us as an Additional Support Needs Auxillary (ASNA) replacing Mrs Church who retired in December. Ms Szuster starts next week.

Following maternity leave, we welcome back to the teaching team, Ms Kidd who will play a supporting role in P1. Ms Laing has also joined the teaching team on a temporary basis in a supporting role. Miss Wilson will continue to temporarily cover Mrs Mitchell’s class during a period of absence. Mrs Mitchell hopes to return soon, and Miss Wilson will resume her role as part of the infant teaching team.

Mrs Stefanatos returns from her maternity leave soon. She will take over P6A when Miss Adam starts her maternity leave -12/3/21. All going to plan, there is a period of time planned to allow shadowing of Miss Adam.

There’s a similar plan in place in preparation for Miss McGowan starting her maternity leave. Mr Munogee has been part of the teaching team since October and will take responsibility for P6/5 as of 15/3/21. He is already known to the children.

Mrs Gillen will begin her maternity leave 11/3/21.

We wish all our expectant mums well and look forward to hearing their exciting news. We congratulate all our returning mums on surviving the first year!

Remember, if you are looking for advice or help, you can contact us via e-mail at houstonenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk where a member of staff will get back to you as soon as possible.

Keep well and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Jennifer Murray

Head Teacher