

**Tel:** 0300 300 0300  
**My Ref:** SQ/KO  
**Your Ref:**  
**Contact:** Steven Quinn  
**E-mail:** [steven.quinn@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:steven.quinn@renfrewshire.gov.uk)  
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Dear Parent/Carer

The Scottish Government have now confirmed that some children and young people will return to school and nursery, either on a full-time or part-time basis, as part of phase one of the phased reopening of schools and nurseries.

From Monday 22 February:

- children in nursery and P1 to P3 will return to nursery and school full time;
- young people in S4 to S6 will come into school on a limited basis and learn remotely from home when not in school;
- children and young people in P4 to S3 will continue to learn remotely from home; and
- a small number of children and young people with additional support needs within special schools and enhanced provision will be able to attend school.

The First Minister expects to set out phase two of schools reopening in two weeks' time and stated that phase two will not begin until at least Monday 15 March. We will update you on phase two in due course.

### **Nursery and P1 to P3 pupils**

All children in nursery and P1 to P3 will return to school in their normal groups and classes. Children should attend nursery and school from Monday morning. Where a child receives transport to school, this will continue as normal.

### **S4 to S6 pupils**

Only a small number of pupils will be asked to come into their secondary school to complete practical work that will support their national qualifications. The majority of senior pupils will not attend school and will continue to learn at home.

If your child is asked to come into school, they may only be at school for a morning or an afternoon. Not all subjects will require your child to complete work in school.

All secondary schools are working on bespoke timetables to support in-school learning where this is required. If your child is required to be in school, the school will contact you to let you know. Please do not send your child to school outside of these times or dates.

## **P4 to S3 pupils**

Children and young people in P4 to S3 will continue their learning at home through the schools established remote learning platforms. We are also putting in additional learning and wellbeing supports to help you and your child while they are learning at home. The need for additional support came through strongly in the recent survey on remote learning and we will send a further letter to all parents and carers on this shortly.

## **ASN Pupils**

A small number of children and young people with additional support needs within special schools and specialist learning spaces will be asked to come back to school. Schools will work to manage the numbers attending to help reduce the risk of transmission. Schools will be in touch with individual families shortly.

## **Safety measures**

The safety, health and wellbeing of everyone in our schools and nurseries is our priority. Schools and nurseries will continue to follow all national guidance on keeping classrooms and resources clean, wearing face coverings when required and keeping two metres physical distance where this is possible. Young people in S4 to S6 will now need to keep two metres physical distance from each other while at school or on a school bus.

Our schools and nurseries will continue to work with NHS public health and the council's environmental health teams to ensure that we are doing everything we can to keep our pupils, their families and our staff safe and help suppress the virus.

## **Testing for staff and senior pupils**

Staff in our schools and nursery classes can now access home covid19 tests as part of the Scottish Government's national testing programme. The testing is designed to catch anyone who has the virus but is asymptomatic (has no symptoms). It is an extra layer of protection against the spread of Covid19 and is in addition to the other safety measures already in place.

Staff in our nursery centres will also be provided with home testing kits in the near future.

S4 to S6 pupils will also be given the opportunity to have a home testing kit if they are returning to school as described above. Home testing kits and consent letters will be distributed by each school. I would encourage all pupils who will be in school to use the home testing kits twice a week. Pupils will be given full instructions on how to use the home testing kits. You can read more on how the testing works on our website (<http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-schools/testing>).

## Drop-off and pick-up

The process for drop-off and pick-up at your child's school will remain the same as it was in term one, however, please check with your child's school if you are unsure on the arrangements. Please arrive at the time and location as advised by your child's school and, if you can, please avoid being early or late to reduce crowding.

Please remember to keep two metres distance from people outside of your household when waiting for your child to come out of school or nursery. Wearing a face covering is also strongly encouraged.

## Transport

Home-to-school transport will be available for all P1 to P3 and S4 to S6 pupils who are entitled to receive it. However, where S4 to S6 pupils will be leaving the school or arriving in school at lunchtime, additional arrangements will need to be put in place. Your child's school will discuss this with your child.

## School meals

Children in nursery and P1 to P3 will receive a school meal when they return to school. This is in line with the national policy to provide these year groups with a school meal for free regardless of their family's circumstances.

Children and young people in P4 to S6 who are entitled to a free school meal on the basis of low income will continue to receive a financial payment in lieu of free school meals (<http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmealsandclothinggrants>). We will continue to make payments every two weeks.

## Health and wellbeing

We know that supporting your child or children to learn at home while also trying to work and getting some down time is challenging. We want you to know that we are here to help.

I've listed some wellbeing supports available below. Please call or email your child's school if you need more advice and support.

Skills for Recovery (<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/renfrewshirehwb/skills-for-recovery/>) is a digital programme that can help you and your family cope with difficult events and improve your wellbeing. You can work through the six digital leaflets in any order and at any pace.

The 'Coping During Covid' is a support service for you and your child or children if you are worried about your wellbeing. Email [reps@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:reps@renfrewshire.gov.uk) to ask to speak to someone and arrange an appointment.

Our counselling service, The-Exchange, continues to offer support to our children and young people who are learning at home and those in school. The team will also check in with parents. New referrals can be made on The Exchange website ([https://www.exchange-counselling.com/contact\\_us](https://www.exchange-counselling.com/contact_us)).

## Children of key workers

It's important to highlight that the children of key workers and vulnerable children and young people will still be in school when nursery and P1 to P3 children return to school full time and young people in S4 to S6 return to school part time.

If you have a key worker place and no longer need it because your circumstances have changed or you are working from home, please let your child's school know.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this latest update. I recognise that this continues to be a challenging time for everyone, and I want to once again thank you for your continued patience and support.

Yours sincerely



Steven Quinn  
Director of Children's Services