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Date: 18 November 2020



Dear Parent/Carer

Yesterday, the Scottish Government announced that Renfrewshire will move to level 4 protective measures from 6pm on Friday 20 November 2020 for three weeks until Friday 11 December.

This brings with it some extra 'enhanced protection measures' for our schools and nurseries, and I wanted to bring you a brief update on what these mean for you and your child.

Shielding children and young people

As part of level 4 protective measures, it is recommended that children and young people on the "shielding list" should not attend nursery or school without a risk assessment informed by the clinical team caring for them.

Pupils who are shielding will learn remotely at home and our schools and nurseries will be there to support them. The Chief Medical Officer will also write out to everyone in this shielding category with further advice.

If your child is in the shielding category, please get in touch with your child's nursery or school so we can support you and provide details of the arrangements for the next few weeks.

If you are unsure if your child is in the shielding category, please speak to your medical consultant or GP for advice.

Physical education (PE)

The enhanced protective measures also mean some changes relating to physical education and sporting activity.

Our schools will continue to teach PE; however, this will now only take place outdoors. Schools will consider the activities and clothing best suited to the weather conditions and will contact parents and carers directly with further details.

In the case of extremely bad weather, schools may decide to provide an alternative activity instead.

Extra-curricular activities

All non-essential activities or clubs outside of the usual school timetable will be paused, however schools will continue to provide supported study.

Out of school care

Regulated childcare will continue to operate as normal.

General advice

I would also like to take this opportunity to briefly reiterate the general advice in place to help stop the spread of coronavirus in our schools.

If your child displays any of the three main Covid-19 symptoms (new persistent cough, high temperature or fever, change of taste or smell), do not send them to school – everyone in your household should stay at home and book a test.

Wherever a new positive case is detected and Test and Protect is activated, we will text-message all parents and carers at that school or nursery to make them aware.

All close contacts of the person who tested positive will be contacted directly, and asked to self-isolate. If you don't hear from us, your child is safe to continue attending as normal.

Please make sure your school has the correct mobile phone number for you – you can do this via [ParentsPortal](#) or by contacting your school or nursery office.

You can read more on all of the above in the [Coronavirus Schools](#) section of our website.

My thanks to you

Throughout the pandemic we have worked hard to keep parents and carers informed.

As always, I can promise you the safety of your children remains our biggest priority and we continue to follow all the national guidance in place to ensure this, including enhanced cleaning.

Unfortunately, a number of our schools and early years centres have had positive cases in their establishments. This is an inevitable consequence of the rising transmission we have seen in the wider community over the past two months.

For each positive case, the advice we have had from public health experts has been that our safety measures are robust and the schools and nurseries remain safe.

We are doing everything we can to keep it that way but can only do that with everyone's continued support. I cannot emphasise enough how important it is to have continued co-operation with the measures being put in place from both you and your children.

Overall, our young people, with very strong parental support, have responded incredibly well to what I know has been a very challenging time for them. We remain incredibly proud of them.

I would also again want to acknowledge the continued efforts of all staff who work in our early years centres and schools. Through their dedication, we have been able to continue providing the best learning experience possible for our children and young people.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Quinn', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Steven Quinn
Director of Children's Services