

Parent/Carer

Date

12 June 2020

Dear Parent or Carer

You will be aware that Scottish Government has announced that schools will open one week earlier than was originally planned for Edinburgh. This has necessitated some minor changes to our session dates for 2020/2021. Schools will open on Wednesday, 12 August 2020. The session will finish on Friday, 25 June 2021.

Our planning for reopening schools is informed by the most up to date Scottish Government and Health Protection Scotland advice to ensure social distancing and infection control. We recognise that each of our special schools has a unique learner profile involving children with differing types of special support needs. This has required each school to develop a tailored approach for re-opening in the context of Covid-19. The majority of schools are planning to offer two full days in school per week, based on 50% occupancy. One school has a model of reopening which runs over a fortnight with 50% of learners attending Monday to Thursday of the first week and 50% of learners attending Monday to Thursday of the second week.

A blended learning approach will be provided by schools including two-way video, enabling live interaction between staff and children, or their parents when more appropriate. Some of our learners who are unable to access video or who require additional time away from home will be provided with other supports and the use of outdoor space. We have commissioned expertise from partners including The Yard, who will be working with schools to provide enhanced support for those families that require it when children are out of school.

Understandably, you may be anxious about what the return to school will be like for your child or children, given their complex needs. There is also an additional level of planning and preparation required to manage any transitions. We envisage that individual school plans will be shared with you in draft form from 15th June, with the understanding that

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these plans are subject to change in line with Scottish Government Guidance and Health Protection Scotland advice.

These plans will provide you with a clearer understanding of how your child or children will be supported when they return to school. It will also give Headteachers and school staff an opportunity to receive feedback on their proposed models so that we can work together to ensure we are able to best meet the needs of our most vulnerable children and young people.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alistair Gaw'.

Alistair Gaw

Executive Director for Communities and Families