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23.08.21

Dear Parents and Carers

We were delighted to welcome our learners back to school last week. Our children and young people are settling so beautifully back into their classroom routines following the long Summer holiday – in a return to school that feels something a little closer to normal.

We must be vigilant and continue to manage the risks of COVID, however; and we will continue to apply many of the mitigations that were in place at the end of last session as part of promoting a low risk and supportive environment for teaching and learning in school. We have made some adjustments to our guidance to ensure consistency with measures that are now in place in wider society, and I have attached the most up to date version of our 'Protective Measures in School' documents, for information. The measures outlined these documents will remain in place until the end of September 2021 at the earliest - at which time we will receive further advice from the Scottish Government.

The core health messages that underpin our school infection control protocols are:

- Symptom vigilance and a requirement that individuals who have COVID symptoms stay at home;
- Enhanced hygiene and environmental cleaning arrangements;
- Effective ventilation;
- Maintenance of physical distancing from others where possible;
- Wearing of face coverings or appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) where necessary;
- Engagement in asymptomatic testing and recording (twice weekly, for staff and some of our secondary learners);
- Active engagement with Test and Protect.

#### **Staffing updates**

**Support for Learning Teacher:** Lindsey Gladstone has joined our team in the role of Support for Learning Teacher. This is a newly created post at Braidburn, which has been made possible this year through Pupil Equity Funding (PEF). Lindsey will be in school for two days each week – and will support targeted learners across both our Primary and Secondary departments.

**Music Teacher:** We recruited to the post of Music Teacher during the Summer Holiday – and I'm delighted to welcome Henry Lowrey to our Braidburn team as a permanent member of staff.

**Pupil Support Assistants:** Sophia Iliopoulou, Maria Atienza and Iman Serroukh have all taken up Pupil Support Assistant posts at Braidburn. Eileen Farquharson and Ayesha Sneddon left their

posts at Braidburn over the summer – and we wish them all the very best as they move on to new roles. Recruitment is underway to fill Pupil Support Assistant vacancies.

**Nursery Nurse positions:** Wioletta Wlodarczyk and Leanne Hamilton have taken up Nursery Nurse roles at Braidburn. Wioletta and Leanne are well known members of our Braidburn team – and we are delighted they have accepted Nursery Nurse positions.

**‘Closing the Gap’ staffing:** We will be supported by two ‘Closing the Gap’ Pupil Support Assistants this session - Laura Stennet, who worked with us in this role last session, and Emer O’Reilly.

**Nursery staffing:** Nicola Rafaelli, who supported us on a temporary basis in our Primary department last year, has returned to Braidburn to work in our Nursery this term. Nicola will be in Nursery on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.

**Spey Class:** Kasia Bell, who will be leaving us at some point this term for a period of maternity leave, has handed over the role of Spey Class Teacher a little earlier than we had originally anticipated, in line with current COVID restrictions. Adrian Rotaecche, who knows our school very well, took on the role of Class Teacher in Spey Class today. Adrian and Kasia have been working together as part of supporting this very early hand over; and I know Adrian is delighted to be in the role of Spey Class Teacher for Session 2021/22.

Our staff team are very much looking forward to working with our Braidburn learners and families during Session 2021/22. Please do call us for a chat or contact us by email if you have any comments or suggestions of input or support.

Warm wishes



Cat

