

EDUCATION, LEISURE & HOUSING

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ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

JAW/RJG

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Dear Parents & Carers

As confirmed by the Scottish Government last Thursday, the planning assumption that schools would open fully in August is to be enacted.

As such, our schools and nurseries will re-open to all pupils on Wednesday 12th August. The 12th to 14th August will be a transition period with pupils attending at least one of these days. On Monday 17th August all pupils will return together.

The following points highlight key information:

- Your Head Teacher, Nursery Manager or Halls of Residence Manager will write to you by Monday of next week to highlight their detailed operational plan.
- In line with Government advice, there will be no requirement for physical distancing between children in schools and nurseries.

In schools the two metre physical distancing rule will be maintained between adults and between adults and children wherever possible.

In nurseries however the two metre physical distancing will not apply between adults and children as, given the age-groups involved, maintaining two metre distance between adults and children is neither realistic nor appropriate.

- There will be no requirement for physical distancing between pupils on dedicated school transport. This service will operate for the vast majority in the way it did previously. Any exceptions to this will be notified by Monday of next week.
- Schools will manage mass gatherings in line with guidance at the beginning and end of the day and at break and lunch times.
- Enhanced hygiene will be promoted by providing hand sanitisers and hand cream in classes and at key points within schools and nurseries. To support this, we encourage you to send your child to school with their own hand sanitiser to enhance our offer. We encourage this for pupils in primary 5 to secondary 6.
- Should you wish your child to wear their own face covering this will be fully supported.

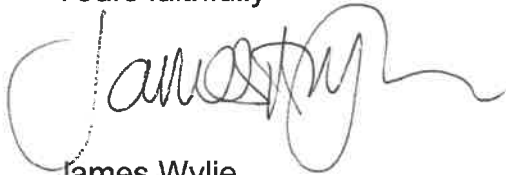
- Enhanced cleaning regimes will take place with cleaning taking place throughout the day with a thorough clean in the evening.
- Should any pupil show symptoms of COVID-19 they will be isolated in a designated room and parents will be called to take their child for a test at the assessment centre. If the test is negative, the pupil will stay off school in line with advice from the assessment centre. If the test were to prove positive then the test and protect guidance would be implemented following a multi-agency meeting.
- If your child is resident in Papdale Halls of Residence, medical staff will visit the Halls to administer the test and carry out a clinical assessment. Parents will be fully informed of progress at each step. Papdale Halls of Residence will provide additional detail on this matter.

Attached is a frequently asked questions sheet to provide further facts but should you have any specific questions following the update from your School, Nursery or Papdale Halls of Residence then please contact them directly.

We will continuously monitor the ongoing COVID-19 management both locally and nationally and adjust our plans accordingly.

We look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school next week.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Wylie', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

James Wylie
Executive Director