

Our Ref: LM/AC  
Date: 20 July 2020



## PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to update you on plans for the new term following the information shared by the Deputy First Minister (DFM) on Thursday during the Scottish Government's daily briefing.

Based on current scientific evidence, the national guidance remains that we should prepare for all children and young people to return to school and Early Learning and Childcare Centres (ELCC) from Wednesday, 12 August, 2020.

The DFM also confirmed he would be make a statement on education this week in parliament and a further announcement will be made on 30 July to confirm the position on the opening of schools.

The DFM stressed that the return of pupils to full-time education is dependent on the continued suppression of Covid-19 (Coronavirus) and current progress remaining on track.

It is with all this in mind, I write to update you of our plans for pupils in West Dunbartonshire. We are preparing for children and young children to return to school and ELC on a phased basis for the first three days of the new term, starting on Wednesday, 12 August with all pupils in school full-time on Monday, 17 August.

It is important that we make the return to education as smooth as possible for our new and returning pupils. The three day phased return will support children and young people to be welcomed back in smaller groups and give them time to settle into the learning and teaching environment again. This soft start will also allow children and young people time to familiarise themselves with the new health and safety guidelines and hygiene routines which will keep everyone safe.

Following the DFM's announcement on 30 July, we will confirm local plans for the return of pupils for the new term and parents and carers will be contacted by their school on Tuesday, 4 August to confirm which day their child/children will start school.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding in these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely

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