

29th May 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

Following the announcement by the First Minister last Thursday about the phased reopening of schools in June and yesterday's further announcement that schools could be open from next week, I hope to be able to answer some of the questions I know you will have about when and how our children and young people will return to schools across Midlothian.

The First Minister announced last Thursday that teachers and other staff will return to schools during June to prepare schools and classrooms for the new academic session and a model of 'blended learning' which will consist of part-time in-school and part-time at-home learning.

It was also announced that after the summer break, schools will reopen from 11 August, which is earlier than our planned date of 19 August. We will provide you with further information in due course about any other changes to term dates. There will still be 2 in-service days as planned, meaning that for those children and young people who will be in school that week, they would start on 13 August.

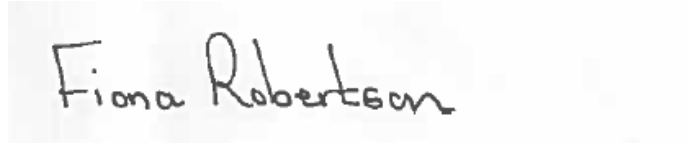
In Midlothian, our Education Strategic Group has been planning for a return in late June for some time now, for our new P1 pupils, and existing P7s who are ready to make the transition to secondary school. At the moment, scientific advice permitting, our staff will return to school buildings on a rota basis to prepare learning environments and plan activities.

In week beginning 22 June, each new P1 and current P7 will have 1 time slot in school to re-engage with schools, meet teachers and participate in health and wellbeing activities. There will also be special arrangements made to support the transition of children and young people with complex and additional support needs. Individual schools will contact you directly to give you further details in due course.

In June and over the summer, we will continue to provide emergency childcare provision for the children of key workers. We will be in contact with parents and carers about the arrangements for our summer programme early next week.

I would like to thank all parents, carers, children and young people for their patience and understanding as we work through this unprecedented situation. I know this has been a challenging time and we are committed to sharing further information with you as soon as we can.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona Robertson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Fiona Robertson
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