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Monday 15th June 2020

Planning for June and August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and managing in these challenging times for everyone. I know that with only two weeks to go until the end of term and the start of the school summer holidays, there will be some anxiety about what happens next and what our return in August will look like.

I would like to reassure you that while we have had to prioritise arrangements for pupils transitioning to Primary 1 and in to high school, we are also currently planning for the transition and return of all pupils back in to our school.

The planning process is far from straightforward, and while I may share plans with you, please be aware that these **may** have to be altered or change dependent on Scottish Government and Midlothian Council guidance. I will keep you aware of any changes as soon as I can.

Further guidance about specific arrangements for August will follow. However, you will know from the media that this will be a 'blended model' where children will spend some of the time at school and some time at home. We will be planning around sibling groups across P1-P7. There is also likely to be a commitment to continue to support keyworkers.

From Monday 15th June, most staff will be in school planning classroom and teaching spaces to meet current guidelines for August. In the final week staff will be passing on transition information to support learners for their return in August. We will also welcome our new P1 pupils to introduce them to the building and some key members of staff. We will also have the opportunity to welcome back our P7 pupils for a final visit and an opportunity to say a fond farewell. In order to meet social distancing guidelines, these activities will take place over several days.

Throughout these two weeks the Hub at Gore Glen Primary School will remain open for keyworkers and will be supported by staff from across the Newbattle Learning Community.

While staff will still be scheduling activities on SeeSaw for this period, authority guidance is that there should be a relaxation in terms of expectation in order that transitions and planning for August can take place. Please note that staff will not be as available to comment on pupil learning as they have been throughout the distance learning period.

I now know the names of the majority of teachers that will be supporting learning and teaching next session in our school, but final information has not yet been received and therefore cannot be confirmed at this time. As soon as I am able to move forwards and allocate particular classes to a teacher, I will do so.

Thank you for everything you do and continue to do, to support our school. Our staff team are so proud of all of our pupils and our families, in the work that they have achieved during this period.

Kind regards

L Walker
Head Teacher (Acting)