

St David's R.C. Primary and ELC Setting

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Midlothian 

10th August 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Safe return of pupils Wednesday 12th August

A warm welcome back after a sustained time away from school. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you and your family back to St David's and are eager to move forward as we ensure a safe and smooth return of all pupils.

There are a number of changes/ alterations to the school day to meet the guidance set out by Scottish Government. The health and safety of our pupils, staff and wider community is paramount and we will continue to work hard to review and improve our practices and procedures inline with local and national guidance. As you know, guidance is being updated regularly and we are working to understand and respond to the ever-changing guidance and protocols.

Please read the information below carefully. We ask that everybody acts with care and consideration and follows the expectations we have set out to keep all users of our school safe and minimise the spread of infection.

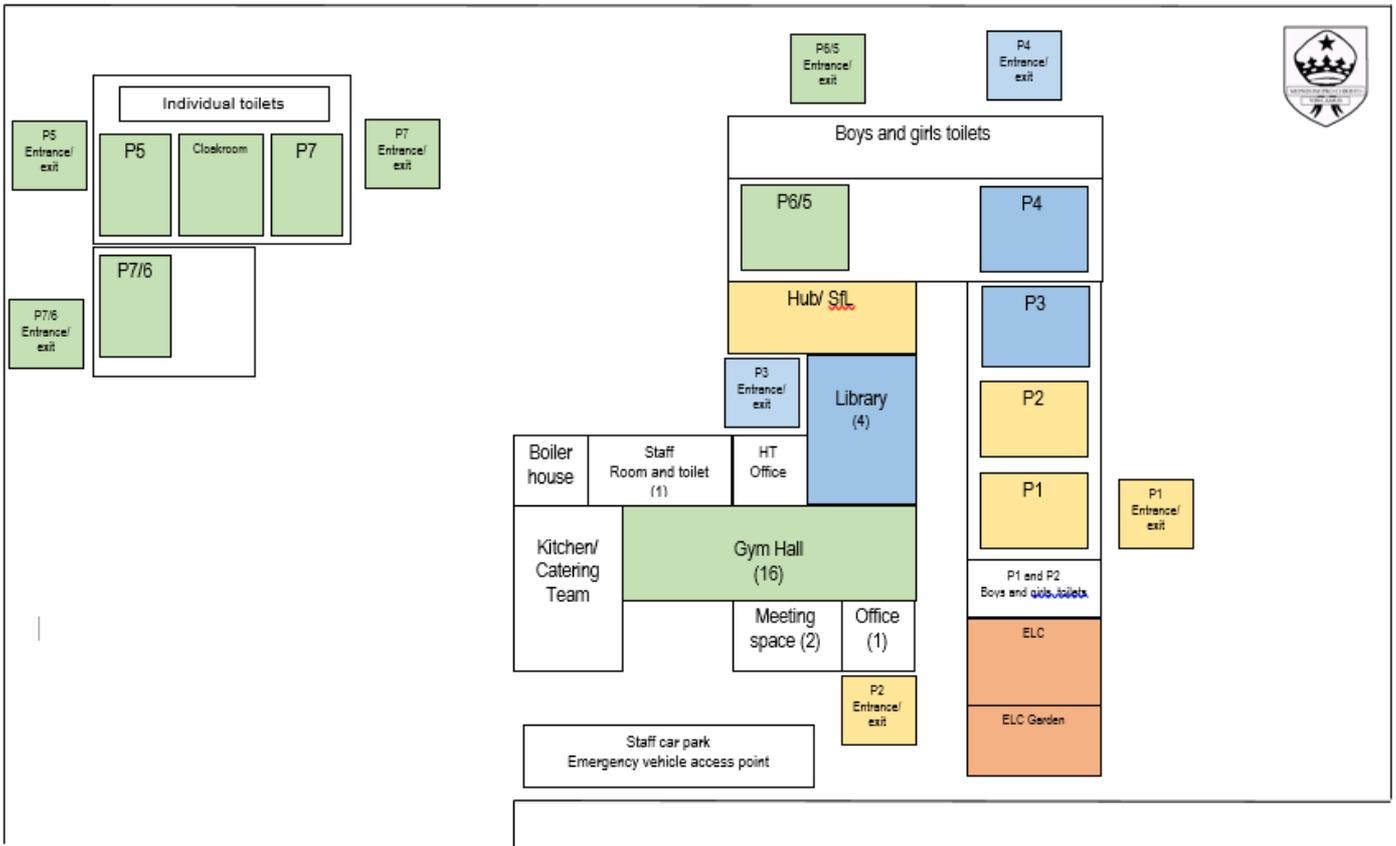
Access to school grounds

To minimise the amount of time spent in the school grounds, the school gate will be locked until 8.35am each morning. We ask that parents/ carers do not arrive before this time to avoid crowds or large gatherings. Please do not congregate and respect the physical distancing measures still in place for adults i.e. 2 metres from one another.

When arriving at school:

- only one parent/ guardian can pick/ up drop off each child where possible
- parents/ carers are not permitted to enter the school building
- please enter through the playground gate
- your child should assemble at their class entrance (please see layout below) maintaining 2m distance from staff
- parents/ carers must stay back from the lines
- parents/ carers are asked to ensure drop off and pick up is swift to minimise the number of users in the school grounds at any one time





Please ensure you wash your hands prior to setting off for school.

Visitors to school

As part of our infection control measures, **parents/ carers will not be permitted access to the school building. Please do not go the school office.** Instead, please telephone or email us with any enquiries. We appreciate that this is very different to our usual procedures but is a necessary measure to keep everybody safe.

A small number of visitors are permitted to access the school building e.g. health professionals and council workers however, these will be kept to an absolute minimum and coordinated out with school hours where possible.

At present face-to-face meetings are not possible however, we will be happy to speak through any concerns or queries by telephone.

After School Club collection

A number of services currently provide wrap around care for families at St David's. Drop off arrangements will remain the same however; a member of staff will escort pupils to an After School Club staff member out with the school building at the end of the school day. After School Club staff will not be permitted to congregate at the school office or gain entrance to the building.

School transport

A small number of pupils are transported to school by school bus or taxi. Information has been sent to individual families detailing arrangements. Pupils must sanitise after leaving school transport. A copy of this letter can be found on the school website.



Transport to school

Where possible, families are encouraged to walk to school. Families should follow Scottish Government guidance in relation to travelling safely, particularly on public transport. We strongly advise families not to car share and to park and stride to school (parking further away from the school grounds).

Late arrival/ early collection

There are some occasions when a child/ren arrive late to school. Please go to the school office and ring the buzzer. Please stand back from the door. A member of staff will provide entry for your child.

Should your child require early collection, please telephone in advance to allow the school to have your child prepared.

Parents/ carers will not be permitted into the school building whilst they wait.

Primary 1

We are eager to meet our new Primary 1 cohort! Primary 1 will attend school Wednesday 12th, Thursday 13th and Friday 14th 8.50am-12pm.

All Primary 1 pupils will join us full time from Monday 17th August, 8.50am to 3.15pm.

What to bring

All pupils require a **packed lunch from home** upon their return to school. Families in receipt of Free School Meals are continuing to receive direct payments to allow packed lunches to be purchased and brought from home. We will advise you of when this arrangement changes.

Pupils should **bring a water bottle** to school each day. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide cups or bottles of water to children who do not have one in school. We will advise you of **milk** arrangements when we receive further clarity from Midlothian Council.

Pupils do not need to change their shoes in school at present and therefore **do not require indoor shoes**. We will inform you when this arrangement changes.

Please **do not send a PE kit into school at this time**. PE indoors is not currently permitted. We will inform you when this arrangement changes.

Pupils will be **provided with the resources they require** in school. Individual packs have been made up including key items e.g. scissors, pencils. These items will be sanitised at the end of each day. Please do not send additional items from home.

Strictly **no toys or personal items** should be brought into school.

Please **ensure items are clearly labelled** with your child's name and class.

Pupils can bring their own moisturiser to apply (we recognise many pupils have sensitive skin from continual handwashing and sanitising). This must be clearly labelled and stored in school bags.

All items will be kept in your child's **school bag**. School bags will be kept on the floor and are not permitted to go on desks.

Coats and bags will be stored in classrooms (cloakrooms are not currently in use).

All items should return home with your child each day.



Please note it will not be possible to enter the classroom at the end of the day to check for lost or missing items.

Uniform

Where possible, we ask that pupils wear school uniform. There is no requirement to wear a tie or blazer at present. We recommend that school uniforms are changed out of immediately after returning home from school and washed. Clean clothes should be worn to school each day. We appreciate that not all pupils will have sufficient uniform to do so and therefore anticipate that some pupils will not be able to wear uniform each day.

Your child will be given an allocated day for PE outdoors (weather dependent). **We ask that your child comes dressed for physical activity** (no football shirts or colours) as children will not be able to change for PE in school at present. PE kit may include: a waterproof jacket, suitable trainers, a t-shirt, jumper and jogging bottoms.

Pupils should come to school dressed for outdoor PE sessions on:

Monday: P6/5
Tuesday: P4, P7/6
Wednesday: P3, P2
Thursday: P5, P7
Friday: P1

A number of families have requested **school ties (£5) and iron on badges (£1.50)**. These are available through the school office. A request sheet will be available from the playground in the first week back. Please note that admin staff will not handle cash at this time and all payments must be made through ParentPay. Items will be put in your child's school bag.

We loaned a substantial number of our school iPads to families last term. Please ensure these are returned to school along with the charger.

PPE

Some pupils may wish to wear facemasks upon their return to school.

Staff will also wear PPE inline with local and national guidance. This may include facemasks, visors, gloves and aprons, particularly when administering first aid or supporting with a healthcare need.

Staff will work with pupils to understand the need to wear this equipment to keep everyone safe.

Before and after school activities

At present there will be no after school activities offered due to current government guidance e.g. Active Schools clubs.

Unfortunately we are unable to offer our Breakfast Club provision at this time. We realise this is valuable service for many but are unable to offer the service due to restrictions around large gatherings and the enhanced cleaning regimes required at this stage. This will be reviewed regularly and we hope to resume this service as soon as possible.

ELC

ELC Learners received confirmation of their 600 hour place prior to the summer holidays. We are working with Midlothian Council to increase this to the 1140 hour offering and will communicate more information soon. The ELC staff team will be making contact with families this coming week ahead of the return of children to setting on Monday 17th August.



The school day

We will be working hard with all pupils to establish routines, structures and familiarity with the school environment. This takes time and staff will be sensitive and responsive to the varying experiences our pupils have had throughout this time. A focus on health and wellbeing will feature highly in the children's daily curriculum to support them through this transition and beyond.

Pupils for the majority of their day will remain in their class cohorts. Pupils will not be permitted to 'hot desk' and be assigned a desk and chair to work from. Although pupils do not need to physically distance from one another, they must remain 2 metres from adults wherever possible.

Younger pupils will continue to benefit from active, practical tasks however enhanced cleaning regimes and regular sanitising of equipment will be in place.

Pupils will regularly be asked to sanitise/ wash their hands for at least 20 seconds to maintain good hygiene throughout the school day. Sanitising stations have been set up throughout the school and additional measures have been put in place for an enhanced cleaning regime. Facilities Management staff will remain onsite full time.

Pupils will not be permitted to move around the school building and will spend the majority of their time in their classroom. This includes when eating snack and lunch before going out to play. Class cohorts will be able to play together during break and lunch times with the support and guidance of support staff.

Support for Learning/ specialists

Class cohorts and individuals will continue to benefit from additional support from the Support for Learning team including Learning Assistants. The team are working hard to plan how this provision will look due to minimise contact with more than two class cohorts each day. This will also impact on the usual timetable we are able to offer pupils e.g. weekly art lesson with Miss Goodwin. We are working with Midlothian Council and professional associations to understand how these important aspects of the curriculum can be delivered in a regular and meaningful way.

Transition

Staff are working hard to coordinate a smooth transition for pupils into their new class cohorts. They will work hard to build positive, reciprocal relationships with the children in their class and offer a range of learning experiences to promote and stimulate their learning.

Helping your child back to school

A number of families have benefited from additional transition opportunities over the holidays. Primary 1 received a recent pack to support discussion about coming to school. Other pupils have benefited from visual prompts and social stories to help them prepare for their return.

You can continue to support your child by reassuring and talking to them about returning to school.

We will continue to post updates on Seesaw and our Twitter feed. Please continue to engage in discussion with your child about their learning.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we transition to this next phase of recovery. Your support, trust and continued commitment to the school allows us to push forward and focus on the many highlights and challenges that are yet to come in 2020/2021.

Yours sincerely,



G McPherson

Mrs Gill McPherson
Head Teacher



RELUCTIVE
ROXUS



RESILIENT
RAB



RESOLUTELY
REBECCA



RELATIONSHIP
MAXI

