

# DUNEDIN SCHOOL

*Delivers unique education to individuals*

## Start of School Term, August 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you are all well, and that you've had a good summer and well-earned rest.

We are really looking forward to seeing pupils back in school when term begins at **9am, next Wednesday 25 August**. We are starting to make our preparations now to ensure the return is smooth and safe for everyone.

As you will no doubt be aware, the Scottish Government issued new guidance last week to help schools plan for the new term, and we wanted to share the most important information with you in this email. In short, not much will change to begin with, so pupils will return to routines with which we are all at least familiar.

When pupils return next Wednesday the following measures will still be in place:

- **All staff and pupils** should continue to wear masks in classrooms and corridors, unless exempt
- Staff must still maintain distancing of **at least** 1m between themselves and pupils
- Thorough and regular handwashing and hygiene measures remain vital
- **Twice-weekly lateral flow testing is strongly encouraged**. If you have not previously consented to this and would like to do so, please contact Rosie on the school email address and she will send you a consent form and arrange the delivery of testing kits.
- In addition, in accordance with advice, we ask that **all pupils take a lateral flow test the night before, or the morning of, returning to school**
- We must continue to limit and manage visitors to school, and so we must still ask parents not to enter the school grounds unless it is absolutely necessary or a meeting has been arranged
- We also ask parents to maintain social distancing at the school gate during pick-ups and drop-offs
- Good ventilation is vital so pupils should come to school with a jacket or jumper to make sure they keep warm when windows are open
- We will continue to encourage pupils to bring everything they need for lunch with them, and to eat this outside when weather permits, though pupils will now be able to purchase lunch at Cameron Toll if permission has been given

**You can find a more detailed reminder about all of these infection prevention measures on our website.**

Some things *have* changed, however, and this will hopefully have a positive impact on us all at school. In summary, these are:

- Changes to isolation procedures – in essence, pupils will no longer have to automatically self-isolate for 10 days if they are a close contact with someone who has tested positive. Instead, they will be able to return to school **once they receive a negative PCR test**. However, if they develop symptoms, or receive a positive test, they **must** of course continue to self-isolate for the full 10-day period. Please do keep communicating with us if anyone in the household has symptoms or is self-isolating.

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- Resumption of sports and activities indoors and outside – hopefully this means we will soon be able to offer a wider range of activities on Tuesday and Fridays

Although we are returning with most of the restrictions still in place, there is some hope that things will ease soon. Our pupils have been incredible over the past year, and hopefully greater freedoms are on the way, but our priority at the moment is to follow advice and keep them all safe.

Please do look out for further emails in case anything changes.

We are so grateful to you all for your help and co-operation. Hopefully we will have a much more settled year this year, and will be able to be more welcoming in the coming months.

In the meantime, as always, just email or phone if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards

Staff at Dunedin School