



Your Ref:  
Our Ref: ES/SP  
Contact: Eleanor Sheppard  
Location: Marischal College

Date: 4 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The First Minister made a statement to Parliament outlining a phased return to in-school learning. The Scottish Government will confirm these provisional plans on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

It is provisionally proposed that from week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> February there will be:

- a full time return to early learning and childcare for all children below school age;
- a full time return to school for pupils in primaries 1 - 3

The Education Service has already begun preparations for the proposed return and schools will be in contact with you to make you aware of arrangements in advance of the proposed return date of the 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

There are a number of considerations we are working through, the most significant being to ensure adequate and appropriate provision of staff to deliver key worker and vulnerable learner support to whilst offering in-school provision to some children and young people. Wherever possible we hope to limit any changes in staffing although you will appreciate that with some staff shielding this may not be possible in all cases. The school will provide you and your child with details of any changes in advance of 22<sup>nd</sup> February and it would be really helpful if you could discuss any changes with your child.

Some of you may have concerns about the return to school buildings. I can reassure you that all schools have very strict control measures in place and that the risk assessment will be reviewed again before the return to school buildings. The schools across the City have worked incredibly hard to ensure that they are as controlled as possible and Public Health are very comfortable with the arrangements in place. We do appreciate however that you may still have some concerns and would urge you to raise them with the school in the first instance.

The school will contact you directly if you have a child who is shielding and unable to attend school in person from 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Rest assured we will do all we can to ensure that your child is well supported.

We realise that this continues to be an uncertain and challenging time for families and am extremely grateful for your support over the last few weeks. We recognise that supporting your child to engage with remote learning from home has presented a number of challenges for some and we are grateful for your perseverance and understanding.

Yours faithfully

**Eleanor Sheppard**

Chief Education Officer