

Your Ref:

Our Ref: I:\Schools Services\CoronaVirus
\Parents and Pupils

30 June 2020

Skills, Education and Learning

Directorate

122-124 Irish Street

Dumfries

DG1 2PB

Any enquiries please contact

Gillian Brydson

Direct Dial 030 33 33 3000

E-mail contact@dumgal.gov.uk

Dear Parent / Carer

I wrote to you earlier in the month with information about our emerging plans for a phased introduction to schools and early learning and childcare in August.

You will now be aware of the Scottish Government's announcements made by the Deputy First Minister and the First Minister that all schools will fully reopen in August should the virus continue to be suppressed and it is safe to do so. This move is a significant change in our planning assumptions.

We expect revised national guidance from the Government no later than the end of July. Only when we have received this clarity will we be able to plan how our schools and nurseries will return in August.

I recognise that this means I cannot confirm arrangements for the reopening of our schools in August at this time. However, as we enter the summer break, I want to assure you that our schools are well prepared. Our schools have two plans – one for a full return and a contingency plan - and we will continue to develop these plans over the summer.

The information provided by the Government and the national recovery group at the end of July will allow us to finalise our planning for the return of our schools in August.

The blended learning model that we originally communicated with you will remain as our contingency plan and is likely to be the approach taken should the scientific evidence be such that a full return in August would be unsafe or, following a return, the levels of the virus increased or there are local spikes. You can view a copy of our education contingency plan on our Council's website: www.supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk

There remains a number of questions that we are still awaiting clarity on – our Council will be seeking the answers to these questions over the coming weeks. In particular, school transport continues to be difficult to confirm with the social distancing measures required. We still need time to make the necessary arrangements with transport providers and we will continue to update parents over the summer holiday.

When children/-

When children return there will be enhanced cleaning arrangements throughout the schools, and we will continue to promote good hand hygiene measures. The welfare of our children, young people and staff remains a priority so that we have a safe working environment for all when we return in August. To do this we will continue to follow the national guidance.

We have reached the last week of what has been a difficult and unusual term. I would like to thank all parents and carers and pupils for all your efforts since March – we all have had to think hard about what is important to us as communities. Our schools have shone and I am proud to live and work alongside you in Dumfries and Galloway.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gillian Brydson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Gillian Brydson
Director Skills, Education and Learning