



Monday 4th April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you at what feels like a very optimistic time here at Brunstane after all of the challenges over the last few years. I hope that you have all had a chance to enjoy the recent good weather and lighter evenings and as we move closer to the Easter Holidays, I am delighted to be able to share that we expect many of the Covid-19 mitigations that we have had in place for much of the last two years will no longer be necessary after the spring break. We are very much looking forward to a summer term that will allow us to both get back out beyond the school boundaries on a far more frequent basis and also reconnect with our wider school community in a way that has not been possible over the last two school sessions.

Covid-19 Updates

Whilst there will be a further update from the First Minister during the Easter Holiday, we are anticipating that most of the current safety rules will no longer be mandatory requirements.

Whilst this is fantastic news and will mark an important step towards resumption of normal school life, it is important the whole school community follow a responsible and considered approach to ensure there are no setbacks as restrictions ease.

We expect that after the holiday:

- We will be able to allow adults in the playground before and after school (**starting Monday 2nd May**)
- We will be able to allow adults into school for school events
- We will be able to have guests and visitors at school assemblies
- We will be able to access a greater range of venues for school trips
- We will be able to use public transport for school trips
- We will be able to offer shared learning events for families in school

These changes are very welcome and we have begun our planning to make sure that we maximise the opportunities to both get the pupils out of school and get families back in throughout the summer term.

The Covid rules that will stay in place after the spring break will largely involve adult to adult distancing and the continued wearing of face coverings inside the building. We ask that families support us in these matters and that any adults exempt from wearing face coverings bring evidence of this with them when invited into the school building.

We will share more details of these changes after the holiday.

School Trips

As we are planning for all classes to be going on several trips next session, it is critical that all pupils have returned their KIC forms. These are the general permission forms required to take pupils off the school grounds and **no children will be able to leave school without them**. Verbal permission is not possible without a completed KIC form.

We will send a SEEMIS text and a blank form to parents/carers who have not yet returned a completed form. Please ensure you return straight away to ensure your child can attend trips.

Staffing

Whilst staffing pressures eased slightly in March, we want to remind families that the staffing in any of our classes may still temporarily change without notice next term.

We would also like to introduce several new colleagues who have either started with us already or will be starting shortly after the Easter Holiday.

Our new colleagues are:

Mrs Rachael Finnie (Pupil Support Assistant/School Office)
Mrs Angela Weddel (Pupil Support Assistant)
Miss Claire Tracey (Pupil Support Assistant)
Miss Maggie Morrison (Pupil Support Assistant)
Miss Rosie Jones (Early Years Practitioner – Penguins Class)

Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Our partnership with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra has led to an offer for pupils and families of complimentary tickets for upcoming SCO season finale concert Maxim's Firebird on Thursday 12 May 7.30pm, Usher Hall.

If you are interested, please call the school office by Friday 8th April.

Desks

We have some classroom desks to give away to families who might want them. If this would be a help to you, and you are able to collect, please get in touch with the school office after the Easter Holiday.

Parent/Carer Language

As we look forward to welcoming parents back into the playground at the start and end of the day, we would like to remind parents and carers that they should refrain from swearing at the school gates and in the school playground. Should this continue, we would reconsider the move to have parents back on school grounds.

Dogs

Whilst we are delighted to be able have parents back on site after so long, we would like to remind all families that dogs are not allowed anywhere on the school grounds.

If you plan to come into the school playground, please ensure that your dog stays at home.

Rainbow day fundraiser

As you may have seen on Twitter, our Parent Council are organising a Rainbow Day fundraiser on Thursday 7th of April. If you would like to join in, please dress in bright colours for school that day. If you would like to bring a small donation to parent council funds, class teacher will collect these on the day.

Holiday Dates

We would like to remind families that the Easter Holiday starts after school on Friday the 8th of April (school finishes at the usual Friday time). All staff and pupils return on Monday 25th April.

On behalf of all of the school team, I would like to wish all of our Brunstane families a happy and healthy holiday. We look forward to seeing you all again on the 25th.

Yours sincerely



Chris McMillan
Head Teacher