



Nether Currie
Primary School

Nether Currie Primary School
23 Thomson Crescent
Currie
EH14 5JR
Tel: 0131 449 3140
Email: admin@nethercurrie.edin.sch.uk
Head Teacher – Mrs Kirsten H Johnston

11th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Returning to Nether Currie Primary School on 15th March 2021

Well, here we are again! I think this might be the letter that most parents and carers have been looking forward to for some time.

As you will be aware the First Minister last week announced the re-opening of schools for all primary school aged children from Monday 15th March. Our P1-P3 children have settled back in well and are beginning to get used to being back in the routine of a 'typical' school day, albeit with increased measures of infection control.

We are delighted to be able to welcome our P4-P7 children back to school and want to make sure they too feel safe and secure with the changes that will be in place to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID 19.

It is our intention to return to a staggered entry into school in the morning, by family surname grouping. This worked well, and we were able to bring the children safely into the building through a variety of different entry points. Given that the Scottish Government has laid out very clear instructions about parents and carers not gathering at the school gates, we have left a 5 minute gap between entry times in order for the first group of arriving parents and carers to disperse before the second group arrive. Please do assist us with this by leaving as soon as your child has entered the school grounds.

Drop Off Arrangements

	P1	P2	P3	P4 & P5	P6 & P7
Surname A-L 8:40-8:45am	Entry through P1 door in infant playground.	Entry through OSCARS door.	Entry through main gate and main entrance.	Entry through main gate and walk round to the gym hall fire exit.	Entry through main gate and walk round to the P6/7 back door.
Surname M-Z 8:50-8:55am	Entry through P1 door in infant playground.	Entry through OSCARS door.	Entry through main gate and main entrance.	Entry through main gate and walk round to the gym hall fire exit.	Entry through main gate and walk round to the P6/7 back door.

Please note that children should not line up. As they enter the building, there will be hand sanitiser dispensers for your child to sanitise their hands. It is important that they get back into the habit of using these on arrival to school. Children should then hang up their coats and go directly into the classroom. P7 children should take all their belongings into their classroom as was the arrangement before Christmas.

All children should be in school by 8:55am. Registration will take place shortly after.

Collection Arrangements

As with the previous arrangements, children will be dismissed at the end of the day by their teacher through a specific exit. We have signage located on the railings of the school fence to show parents and carers where to wait for their child. There are yellow and black markers on the railings to ensure that parents and carers are maintaining a proper physical distance between each other whilst waiting and again we would respectfully ask that once your child is with you, you leave immediately.

Monday to Friday (please note Primary 2 have different exit on a Friday, see below)

Class	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6 & P7
Mon-Thurs Fri	2:40pm 12 noon	2:40pm (see below)	3:15pm 12 noon	3:15pm 12 noon	3:15pm 12 noon	3:15pm 12 noon
Class Exit	Exit from P1 door	Exit from OSCARS door then main gate	Exit from OSCARS door	Exit from Main Entrance	Exit from Gym Hall Fire Exit	Exit from P6/7 back door
Parent and Carer Waiting Arrangements	Parents and carers to wait inside infant playground using the markings on the railings.	Parents and carers line up along both sides of the path next to the flag pole.	Parents and carers wait inside infant playground using the marking on the railings.	Parents and carers wait outside the grounds between the main gate and the rag bag.	Parents and carers wait up the hill from the main gate using the markings on the railings.	Children to arrange a meeting place with parents or carers away from the school grounds.

Friday – Primary 2

P2
12 noon
Exit bike shed door
Parents and carers to wait either side of path inside bike shed gate

What you need to know

Physical distancing - Physical distancing between adults and between adults and children from different families must be observed. This means normal access into the school for parents and carers will be severely restricted to maintain the safety of everyone. However, Mrs Milne will continue to run her 'mobile office' outside the OSCARS door from 8:40-8:55am should you need anything.

Face Coverings

We would encourage you to wear a face covering when you drop off your child or collect your child from school

Hygiene arrangements – We will continue to encourage regular handwashing when children are in school and hand sanitisers will be widely available throughout the building. Enhanced cleaning will take place daily.

Toilet Arrangements – P1-3 children will continue to use the infant toilets where there is an entry card system in place. The toilet cards indicate when there is space for a child to go in. P1-3 have been successfully using this system since they returned to school on 22nd February. A similar system will be put into place in the P4-P7 toilets to ensure that children from different classes are not congregating in the toilets.

Uniform – It is recommended that your child wears clothing that can be washed frequently and blazers or any items which require dry cleaning should not be worn to school. As we will be spending more time outdoors, please ensure that your child comes to school with warm layers and a waterproof jacket and a pair of trainers, suitable for the outdoors. The pitch is particularly muddy at the moment, so in a change to the previous arrangements, we are happy for a change of shoes to be kept in your child's school bag. Please also provide your child with an additional pair of socks. We will let you know when this is no longer required. On the days when your child has PE, we would encourage them to wear 'sportswear' that day, although no football strips please.

Lunch Arrangements – School lunches will be in the form of a packed lunch with a hot item as per arrangements before Christmas. P1 and P2 children will continue to have a staggered lunch in the Dining Hall, whilst P3-P7 will eat their lunches in their classrooms. Each classroom will be fully supervised by a member of staff and the tables will be cleaned before and after the children eat. Children who have their own packed lunch will be asked to keep their lunch boxes in the classroom rather than in the cloakroom to reduce the amount of traffic accessing these areas over lunch time.

Playground Areas – It is important that we continue to treat each class as a bubble and that our class bubbles do not mix with each other. We will continue to have designated areas in the playground for each class bubble to play in and will encourage them to make use of the playground toys which they purchased at the beginning of the session. We are continuing to instil a strict 'hands off' policy and I would encourage you to talk to your child about the importance of sticking to this rule. You would be amazed at how challenging children find it not to touch each other!

Schoolbags and Stationery – As before, we are keen to reduce the number of items coming in and out of school. All stationery will be supplied therefore no pencil cases will be required at this time. Please only send in a small school bag, big enough to hold a snack, a water bottle and a pair of shoes, should you wish your child to change when playing outside.

Returning Home Learning Work and Textbooks – Please ensure your child returns their learning packs, including all text books, reading books and any equipment issued, on Monday 15th March. These will be quarantined for 72 hours before being used.

After School Clubs and Breakfast Club – OSCARS out of school care provider will be operating as usual at Nether Currie. Claire Walls, the club manager will be in touch with existing service users over the course of this week.

Communication – As we have found over the course of this pandemic, communication between school and home is very important. Please do get in contact with us if you have any worries about your child's return to school.

There will be virtual Parents' and Carers' Consultations in the final term, where you will have the opportunity to have a more in depth conversation with your child's teacher to discuss their progress and next steps in learning. I will be writing to you later in the term to give you more information about this.

And Finally...Friday 19th March is **Red Nose Day!** It would be a shame to let this pass without recognising all the good work that this charity supports. I would like to invite the children to come to school with their 'red noses' on and perhaps choose to wear something red to school that day. We will have our charity buckets ready for any donations which you might like to make.

Our focus for the weeks ahead, is to ensure that we bring our school community back together whilst ensuring the safety of everyone. We know all too well the impact that this second lockdown has had on families and we do not underestimate the challenge which lies ahead of us in ensuring that your child feels happy and safe at school. We will also use the time to gather as much information about where your child is in their learning journey so that we can plan their next steps.

I look forward to seeing you all next week at the school gates, albeit at a safe 2m distance!

Kindest Regards,

Kirsten Johnston

Head Teacher