



Kaimes School

Enabling Learners with Autism to Thrive

January 2021

We hope that you all had a safe and happy Christmas holiday. We know the news about school closures will be very difficult for you all, especially after our school closure in December.

The Scottish Government have announced that schools will be closed until the 1<sup>st</sup> of February. There is to be provision for Key Worker children (single parent Key Workers, or both parent Key Workers) and for our most vulnerable children. Home learning/Online Learning is to be the way that most children will receive education.

We have already been in touch with our Key Worker families and the most vulnerable families and have a plan in place. School transport continues to be in place for children that normally use it.

Following our Covid-19 outbreak and closure, the Health Protection Team and Environmental Health have worked with the school leadership team and Senior Leaders in the City of Edinburgh Council to review our risk assessment and identify next steps. These next steps have been put in place for a safer return to school.

One main change is that the timetable will run on a 3 session day. This reduces contacts for staff and learners. The timetable will be on a 2-week cycle so the full curriculum entitlement will be met. There will be tighter bubbles for playtime and lunch time.

#### **What will be in place for learners in-school?**

Whilst learners are at school during this school closure period, they will stay in their allocated classroom all day. They will follow a different timetable to the usual in-school timetable. They might operate over two classrooms so there is more space and greater social distancing.

Enhanced cleaning and use of PPE will continue to be in place. Staff will be wearing a face mask at all times when they cannot maintain 2m social distance.

Lunch and snack will be eaten in the classroom. School lunches will still be provided with a reduced menu of soup and sandwiches.

We will not be using shared areas such as the art room, dining room or music room. PE will be offered on a Monday or a Wednesday and will be outdoors. Children should come suitably dressed for being outdoors for PE and other learning outdoors.

#### **What if my child has symptoms?**

If your child is unwell they should not come to school.

If your child shows any of the key COVID-19 symptoms when they are at home, they will need to stay off school whilst you follow the NHS Guidance.

If your child shows symptoms when in school, we will support them to go to our Isolation Room where a member of staff will wait with them. We will contact you straight away to let you know and work out a pick-up arrangement.

Your family will need to self-isolate whilst you arrange a test and await the results. We would be very grateful if you could keep us informed. We know some of our learners may really struggle to take a test. In this case, your family will need to self-isolate as directed in the NHS guidance. If there is a positive case, parents will be kept informed via our text system and our website.

#### **What will be in place for home learning?**

Home Learning will be provided through Class Note which is on Office 365. Teachers will post learning activities on Class Note which will follow the learner's new 3 session timetable. There will be 3 learning activities for each child to do a day.

Additional activities can be accessed on Education City (for Primary-S3 learners) and Sumdog for all learners (Literacy and Numeracy activities). There are also activities on One Note which can be accessed by all.

There will be virtual assemblies posted on the school website on Mondays for Primary and Wednesdays for Secondary. You can send in your news to Mrs Zaloni or Mr Scott.

A key adult has been assigned to every learner who has not been offered a place in school. Key adults will make 1-2 contacts per week, agreed in advance after the initial call. Their phone number will be withheld when they call you. The key adult should be the first contact for any queries with home learning. They will be able to support you access Office 365, Sumdog or Education City. The key adult will pass on any issues to the class teacher/Senior Leadership Team. Families have been offered stationary and those without a device at home have been offered an iPad to be able to access home learning. If you require resources, please let the key adult know.

Many thanks for your support and understanding in these challenging times.

Karen Watters

Acting Head Teacher