



June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Whilst the school remains closed to pupils please be reassured that the staff team are working as hard as they can behind the scenes to plan for reopening to pupils in August if it is safe to do so.

Last week the Scottish Government published guidance for Primary Schools, and Nursery guidance will be with us by the middle of June. We are awaiting local guidance from City of Edinburgh Council and trying to plan as best we can for our own school context.

It is clear that children will return to school in smaller groups, possibly in half classes and will adhere to social distancing measures where they can. They will have some time in school with their teacher and some time at home learning. This is being referred to as blended learning. We have listened very carefully to all the feedback from parents and will take this into consideration when planning what our offer of blended learning looks like. Parents have supported their children to engage with digital platforms like Sumdog and have really appreciated home learning packs with hard copies of resources for their children to complete each day. As soon as we know which attendance pattern we will be offering we will communicate this to you, and children will be sent home with work to complete on the days that they do not attend school.

We are in the fortunate position that we do not need to recruit any new full-time teachers. Mr Linton will return to staff in August after a two-year career break where he was teaching abroad. Ms Shepherd will also return to Dalry for an additional year. We therefore know that for most of our children there will be a familiar face.

Due to uncertainty around our P1 numbers we are unable to confirm which member of staff will be with your child but as soon as we are able to share this with you we will. The delay has been caused by children who have made placing requests both in and out of Dalry and the lack of access to digital systems to organise this centrally.

It is a particularly difficult time for our P7 pupils moving on and for our new P1 pupils arriving in. Usually this term would have been a busy term with a clear focus on transition. Nursery staff across the city have agreed on a transition theme and our nursery team are working creatively using 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' to engage the children and their families. We have worked closely with colleagues in High Schools across the city to ensure things go as smoothly as possible for our P7s, and we are all very sad that they will not have

the same opportunities to celebrate their time with us at Dalry. We are still hoping to hold a celebration when it is safe to do so, and Miss Curran has lots of virtual moving on plans for her class which the staff will join in with. The city wide P7/S1 programme came in yesterday and the theme is 'Moving On'. We have met with Miss Curran to discuss what this will look like for our P7s. We are hopeful that it will involve a visit back to the school playground to write goodbye messages and a visit to Tynecastle High School in late June. More details to follow as Tynecastle are still at the planning stage of this exciting experience. I will send a separate mail to P7 parents when I have more details.

Please be patient with us as we work hard to prepare for safely reopening and be reassured that we are doing everything possible to ensure the reopening of school runs smoothly.

Mrs Honeyman

Head Teacher