

**Date** 22 December 2020

**Your ref**

**Our ref** S&LL/AG/JR

Dear Parent/Carer

Further to the announcement by the First Minister on Saturday that from 26 December, mainland Scotland will be subject to Level 4 Covid-19 restrictions. As a result, the arrangements for the start of next term in January will be different for children and young people.

There will be support for children of key workers at their own school/ nursery only where both parents/carers fulfil the requirements according to the Scottish Government's criteria, as published on the Scottish Govt website. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-school-re-opening-arrangements-for-january-2021/pages/children-of-keyworkers/>

An email will come out to all parents and carers today inviting you, if you identify as a key worker, to apply for places online. Your child's school will confirm places on 5 January and will be contacting families to offer spaces to vulnerable children too.

From Wednesday 6 January, schools will be open for key worker childcare pupils, who have been allocated a place until Friday 15 January. From Monday 11 January, all other children and young people will start the term with remote learning from home. If your child or young person attends a special school, the Headteacher will contact you by 6 January with the arrangements for their school from 11 - 15 January.

Schools are scheduled to open fully on Monday 18 January for in-school learning, unless there are other adjustments when Scottish Government review matters early in the New Year.

It will be essential when your children return that everyone observes the infection control arrangements. In particular, face coverings where appropriate, hand washing, keeping 2m distancing where possible continue to be very important to keep everyone safe.

While it is very frustrating that children and young people's education is once again disrupted, I can assure you that every effort is being made by all staff to minimise the inevitable consequences caused by the changing nature of the virus. The many tributes paid by parents for the work in schools and nurseries have been very much appreciated by staff and your continued understanding and support is very welcome.

**Communities and Families Directorate**

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To you and your families, may I wish you an enjoyable festive break and hopefully a more settled and predictable 2021.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AG', enclosed in a light gray rectangular box.

**Andy Gray**  
**Chief Education Officer**