



Hillhead Primary School  
110 Otago Street  
Glasgow  
G12 8NS  
0141-339-1365

office@hillhead-pri.glasgow.sch.uk  
www.hillheadprimaryglasgow.org

19 August 2020

## School Update

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this finds you well.

It has been wonderful to be able to welcome back all of our pupils and staff. There remain many restrictions in place and there is much for us to continue to review and consider, but being able to reconnect pupils with their school has been a hugely positive experience.

Thank you for all of your support as we continue to fine tune the arrangements we have in place for drop off and pick up. I very much appreciate that there has been significant disruption to the 'normal' routines that all families have during school term but the structures we have put in place are focused on ensuring the health and safety of all of our school community.

I have updated the Q&A document with some additional information (please find this attached and an updated version will be added to our school website tomorrow <http://hillheadprimaryglasgow.org/>).

### **Water Coolers**

A decision has been made for all Glasgow schools that water coolers can no longer be used. This will be in place until further notice and means that pupils and staff will need to bring with them sufficient water to last them through the day.

The decision has been made as the scientific advice suggests an increased risk of spread of the virus were the nozzles of bottles to regularly come into contact with the taps fitted in our water coolers.

If your child goes to the Dining Hall and has a school meal then they will be offered a bottle of water as part of their lunch options and this can be used throughout the afternoon.

Please make sure all water bottles are labelled clearly to allow us to ensure that any misplaced bottles can be returned easily to pupils.

### **Physical Distancing**

We are working very hard with all of our pupils to help them to understand the current restrictions in place for physical distancing, there is no doubt that asking both staff and pupils (especially our very young pupils) to remain physically distant at all times feels counter intuitive. However we also understand completely the reasons behind this, to minimise the likelihood of spread of coronavirus, and we have a responsibility to ensure this is maintained at all times where possible. Please continue to speak with your children about this and look to model this behaviour wherever possible. It is very important that parents and carers continue to maintain 2 metres physical distancing from other parents/carers and also from staff.

I appreciate that this can seem very difficult at drop off and pick up as there are many parents and carers looking to ensure their child(ren) is/are dropped off safely into the playground or picked up safely at the end of the day. We have put in place a staggered start and finish to the school day to ensure that as few parents as possible are required to be close to the school gates at any one time. Please see the table below that identifies each stage and where and when they drop off and pick up.

It is very important to note that Primary 2 pupils will not exit until 15.10 at the earliest and therefore all Primary 2 parents/carers should remain well back from the school gate until then. We would encourage Primary 2 parents and carers to space themselves out on Kelvinway and on the far side of

the pavement (University of Glasgow side) to ensure plenty of space is left for our Primary1 parents and carers initially. We will make it very clear when our Primary2 pupils are to be collected and we will invite you forward. Please be reassured that children will be dismissed very carefully one by one.

It should also be noted that our Primary 3 and Primary 6 pupils will not exit until 15.10 at the earliest from the Park Gates. We would encourage parents and carers of Primary 3 and Primary 6 pupils to remain well back from the school gates, physically distant from other parents until 15.10. Pupils will be very carefully dismissed one by one.

All playgrounds will be supervised from 08.40 every morning and pupils can be dropped off from this time.

Thank you for your support with this.

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Entrance/Exit point</b>	<b>Start of school day</b>	<b>End of school day</b>
Primary 1	Kelvinway	<b>08.50</b>	<b>15.00</b>
Primary 2	Kelvinway	<b>09.00</b>	<b>15.10</b>
Primary 3	Park Gates (Grove)	<b>09.00</b>	<b>15.10</b>
Primary 4	Piazza	<b>09.00</b>	<b>15.10</b>
Primary 5	Park Gates (Grove)	<b>08.50</b>	<b>15.00</b>
Primary 6	Park Gates (Grove)	<b>09.00</b>	<b>15.10</b>
Primary 7	Park Gates (Grove)	<b>08.50</b>	<b>15.00</b>

### **Kelvinway Dangerous Driving**

Kelvinway will remain closed for the foreseeable future and there are no plans to reopen the street to traffic at the moment. I very much appreciate that this has caused some difficulties for those parents that would normally use the parking bays on Kelvinway to park and stride to school. However it is not acceptable to park on the bend (at University Avenue and Kelvinway) directly beside the barriers, this is not a designated drop off zone and as such it is causing significant danger to our pupils and their families as they make their way to school.

Please do not park here or drop your children off in this area. It places lives at risk, causes huge inconvenience to other motorists making their way on to University Avenue and to cyclists making their way on to Kelvinway.

I have been in contact with local Councillors to explore other options for parents and carers who are required to use their cars for drop off and I will provide an update as soon as I have further information. At the moment the best solution might be to use the park and stride at Kelvinbridge Underground Car Park, the cost is 60pence for 30 minutes and it is approximately 10 minutes walk from the school.

### **Wet Weather Clothing**

We are very keen to ensure that all pupils are outside as much as possible throughout the day and we will be looking to minimise the number of wet (indoor) playtimes that we need to have. Please help to support us with this by ensuring that your child brings appropriate wet weather clothing every day, ideally this would be a light waterproof jacket that can be carried in their bags as a minimum. It would also be helpful for pupils to bring a spare pair of socks and light shoes/plimsolls that they can change into if necessary.

### **Breakfast Club and School Lunches**

Our breakfast club is running as normal at the moment, there is no need for you to book your child into this, all parents and carers are welcome to access this every day for their child. Pupils will enter the breakfast club via the Main Entrance (on Otago Street) and it costs £2.00 for the first child and £1.00 for every other sibling. Breakfast Club is free for all pupils in receipt of Free Meal Entitlement (this is separate from the Government funded free meal initiative for all Primary 1-4 pupils).

School lunches will continue to be paid via our cashless SQUID system, if you do not have an account set up for this (Primary 1 pupils information will be circulated shortly) then please contact our school office. Pupils are being asked to order the meal they want each day and staff will take the time to discuss this with all children in the morning.

All Primary 2 to Primary 3 pupils can take their packed lunches into the playground and eat outside if they wish.

Thank you once again for your continuing support throughout this period of significant change to school routines and thank you especially to the many parents and carers who have taken the time to pass on good wishes and helpful comments.

We are working very hard to get this right for you and your child and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any concerns about some of the plans we have put in place.

Thank you and best wishes,



Andrew Robson  
Head Teacher