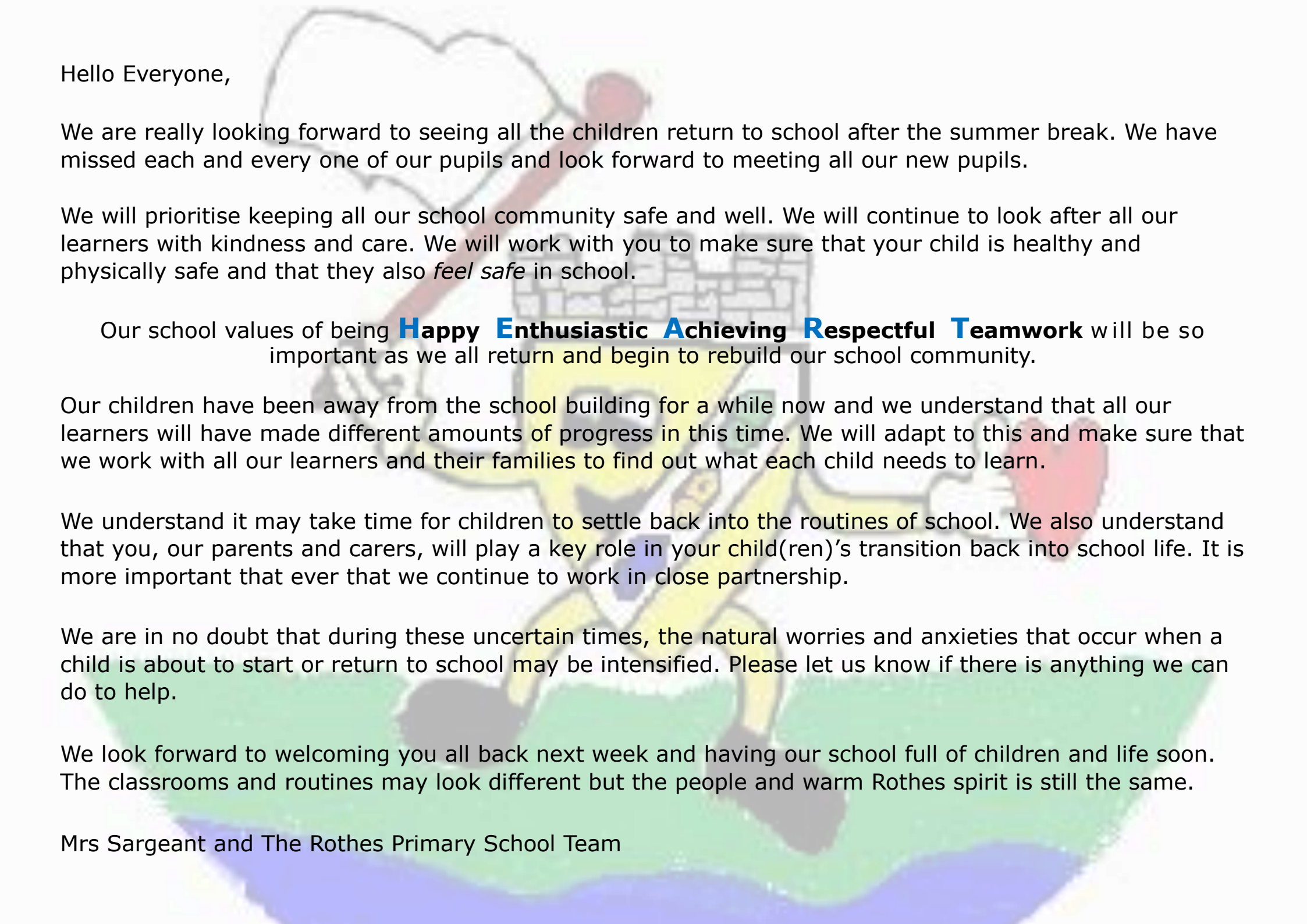




Welcome Back to Rothes Primary
August 2020



Hello Everyone,

We are really looking forward to seeing all the children return to school after the summer break. We have missed each and every one of our pupils and look forward to meeting all our new pupils.

We will prioritise keeping all our school community safe and well. We will continue to look after all our learners with kindness and care. We will work with you to make sure that your child is healthy and physically safe and that they also *feel safe* in school.

Our school values of being **Happy Enthusiastic Achieving Respectful Teamwork** will be so important as we all return and begin to rebuild our school community.

Our children have been away from the school building for a while now and we understand that all our learners will have made different amounts of progress in this time. We will adapt to this and make sure that we work with all our learners and their families to find out what each child needs to learn.

We understand it may take time for children to settle back into the routines of school. We also understand that you, our parents and carers, will play a key role in your child(ren)'s transition back into school life. It is more important that ever that we continue to work in close partnership.

We are in no doubt that during these uncertain times, the natural worries and anxieties that occur when a child is about to start or return to school may be intensified. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help.

We look forward to welcoming you all back next week and having our school full of children and life soon. The classrooms and routines may look different but the people and warm Rothes spirit is still the same.

Mrs Sargeant and The Rothes Primary School Team

Coming Back To School

Monday 10th August: In Service Day for staff. Pupils do not attend.

Tuesday 11th August: In Service Day for staff. Pupils do not attend.

Wednesday 12th August: All children in school.

P1 Pupils arrive for 08.55 start and finish at 12.15pm

P2—P7 Pupils arrive for 08.55 start and finish at 3pm

Thursday 13th August: All children in school.

P1 Pupils arrive for 08.55 start and finish at 12.15pm

P2—P7 Pupils arrive for 08.55 start and finish at 3pm

Friday 14th August: All children in school.

P1 Pupils arrive for 08.55 start and finish at 12.15pm

P2—P7 Pupils arrive for 08.55 start and finish at 3pm

From Monday 17th August: All children in school.

All Pupils arrive for 08.55 start and finish at 3pm

Travelling to and From School

Parents and children are encouraged to walk, cycle or scooter to school being mindful of the 2 metre social distancing and safety guidelines. If you need to use your car, please take care to park in a safe place on the road away from the school gates and walk your child to school.

Please do not use the staff car park.

P1 - 3 pupils - only one parent or carer should accompany their child into the playground to minimise contact with others.

Arrival at the School Gates

In order to reduce congestion when you and/or your child arrive at school - we will be using a second gate at the front of school. Please help your child to remember which gate to use.

P1/2 and P5/6 pupils will enter the playground using the main school gate

P3/4 and P6/7 pupils will enter the playground through the new walkway in the car park and in through the gate from the car park.

If you intend to use the back gate near nursery, to enter our school grounds, please make your way directly and carefully to correct arrival zone remembering social distancing between children and any adults in the playground. We will monitor and evaluate the use of this access point in the coming weeks.

School Minibus/Taxi Pupils

When your child arrives at school they will be dropped off in the staff car park. They will be asked to enter the playground through the small black gate and walk straight to their playground arrival zone. Please have a chat with your child so they know where to go on arrival.

To ensure the safety of everyone entering the school grounds in the morning, please arrive at school no earlier than **8.50 and make your way to the arrival zone and door that has been allocated to your child's class to wait for the bell.**

Arriving at our School (1)

Staff will be on hand in the first week to help support you and/or your child in the playground. Parents of P1 - 3 children may accompany their child to the allocated arrival zone - please be mindful of 2 metre social distancing guidance for adults.

Finding your child's class arrival zone (Diagram on the next page)

P1/2 - Children will enter through the main school gate, turn left and walk towards the bike shelter and then turn right heading up the playground to the left hand side of school. One parent or carer may accompany their child into the arrival zone ensuring that there is 2 metres social distancing between adults. Children should line up from the red spot at the bottom of the ramp.

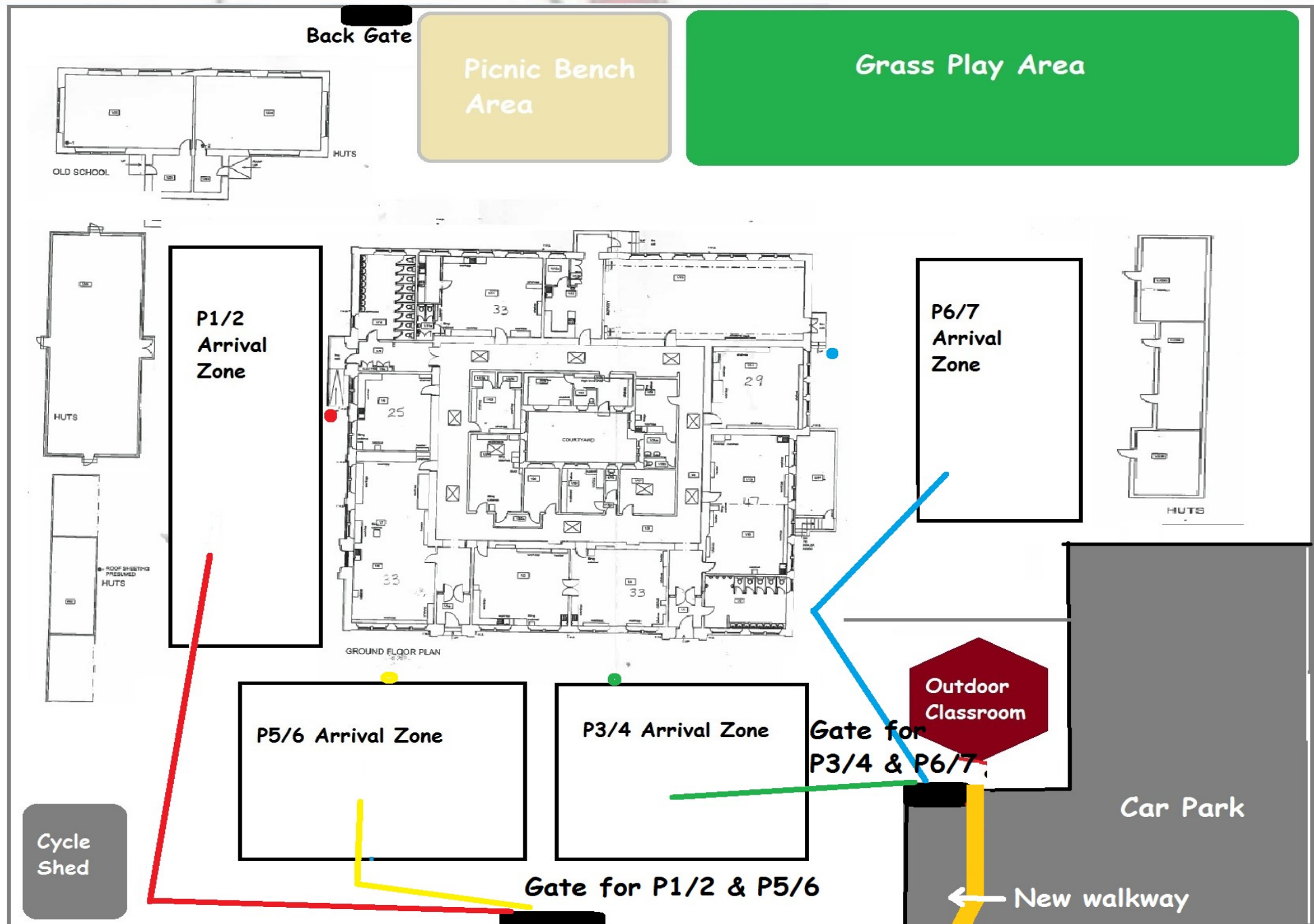
P3/4 - Children will enter the playground through the new walkway in the staff car park and use the gate near the outdoor classroom. Please turn left into the main playground area. One parent or carer of P3 children may accompany their child into the arrival zone ensuring that there is 2 metres social distancing between adults. Children should line up from the green spot opposite the bottom of the main ramp.

P5/6 - Children will enter through the main school gate and walk through the trim trail and into their arrival zone. Children should line up from the yellow spot opposite the P5/6 door.

P6/7 - Children will enter the playground through the new walkway in the staff car park and use the gate near the outdoor classroom. Please continue round passed the outdoor classroom all the way to the arrival zone at the side of the school near the hall. Children should line up from the blue spot at the bottom of the steps from the hall exit.

P4 - 7 Pupils - If you feel that your child will need to be supported by a parent or carer in the playground in the first week please contact the school office to discuss arrangements.

Arriving at our School (2)



Arriving at our School by Bike or Scooter (3)

Children who are using their bikes or scooters to come to school will need to dismount their bike or scooter at the main school gate and walk their bike/scooter to the bike shelter following the white arrows.

When your child has placed their bike or scooter in the bike shelter they need to make their way to the class arrival zone.

P1/2 - Children will continue up the left hand side of the playground following the red arrows to their arrival zone. Children should line up from the red spot at the bottom of the ramp.

P3/4 - Children then need to follow the white arrows up past the wee play park and along the front of the school building and enter their arrival zone. Children should line up from the green spot opposite the bottom of the main ramp.

P5/6 - Children will move from the bike shelter directly into their class arrival zone. Children should line up from the yellow spot opposite the P5/6 door.

P6/7 - Children then need to follow the white arrows up past the wee play park and along the front of the school building. Please continue round passed the outdoor classroom all the way to the arrival zone at the side of the school near the hall. Children should line up from the blue spot at the bottom of the steps from the hall exit.



Arriving and Leaving our School (4)

Each class will have a dedicated door to allow entry and exit to and from the school building.

P1/2 - Side door up on the left hand side of school. Children should line up from the red spot at the bottom of the ramp.

P1/2



P3/4 - Main front door. Children should line up from the green spot opposite the bottom of the main ramp.

P3/4



P5/6 - Front left door. Children should line up from the yellow spot opposite the P5/6 door.

P5/6

6/7 - Fire exit door from our hall. Children should line up from the blue spot at the bottom of the steps from the hall exit.

P6/7



Leaving School

Parents and carers of P1 - 3 pupils are asked to make their way to the designated collection zone (same as arrival zone) at 3pm and wait for their children to exit the building. Please remember to adhere to the 2 metre social distancing measures. All pupils and parents/carers are asked to leave the school grounds as soon as possible using the same route that was taken in the morning.

Moving and Mixing in the School Building

- ♣ The latest guidance tells us that there is no requirement for physical distancing between primary aged children but there should be 2 metre distancing measures between adults and children.
- ♣ Children in P1/2 are advised to follow Early Learning and Childcare Guidance which states that no distancing is required between young children and between the adults and young children in the setting.
- ♣ All adults in school will maintain a 2 metre physical distance from other adults.
- ♣ Initially pupils will be seated all facing the front of the classroom to reduce face-to-face time and to allow the teachers and staff to maintain the 2 metre distancing when direct
- ♣ To minimise contact with other pupils and adults, we will operate a basic one-way system around the school corridors in a clock-wise direction for the majority of movement.
- ♣ When entering the building children will be encouraged to wash or sanitise their hands. We will have hand sanitiser and a new gentle antibacterial hand wash in the classrooms. However please feel free to supply your child with their own products. (Please label these with your child's name if you choose to send in your own products)
- ♣ Hand sanitiser stations will be available at all four entry/exit points as well as at strategic locations around the school building and in classrooms.

What Your Child Will Need

We have been advised not to hang coats and bags on coat pegs in the corridor. Therefore all the belongings that your child brings to school will have to be brought into their classroom. We wish to minimise the number of items that move between home and school.

Bearing this in mind you may decide that your child does not need to bring their usual school bag to school initially.

The essential items your child will need are:

- ♣ A jacket
- ♣ A water bottle
- ♣ A snack
- ♣ Packed Lunch (if bringing it from home)

All pupils will be given their own set of resources to use in class. Sharing of other resources will be kept to a minimum and where it does happen the resources will be wiped and/or sanitised between use.

Please do not send a pencil case or toys into school—keep them safe at home.

PE Lessons

All children should come to school on **Mondays** dressed for PE - shorts/jogging bottoms, a plain t-shirt, school jumper and trainers or gym shoes.

Keeping Us Safe

If your child is feeling unwell before school. Please look after them at home. Call the school office to inform us as soon as you can.

If your child or anyone in your household becomes unwell and are displaying any of the Covid-19 symptoms, **PLEASE DO NOT** come to school, but contact us via telephone or email to let us know. This is an important requirement to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our other children, families and staff.

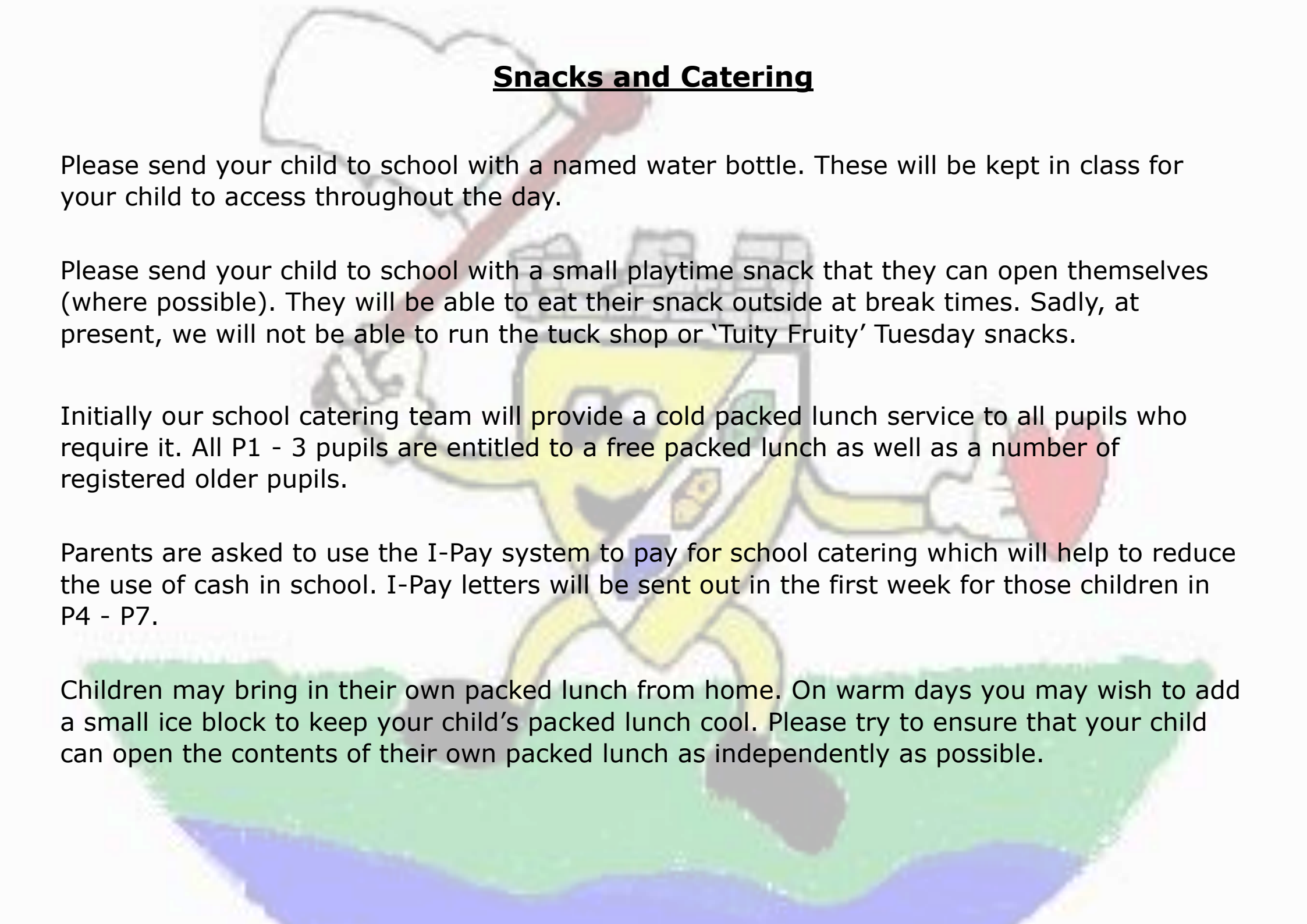
If your child becomes ill at school they will be taken to our isolation area which is well ventilated and near the school office. They will be looked after by a member of staff and you will be contacted to come and collect them as soon as possible. Staff members may need to protect themselves with PPE. If a child's sickness is symptomatic of Covid-19 then you should request a test.

Snuffle Stations

Each class has a Snuffle Station to help teach all children about the importance of getting rid of germs. Each Snuffle Station has a box of tissues, a pedal bin with a lid for the disposal of tissues and access to hand sanitiser or a sink for handwashing.

Snuffle stations will also promote independence in younger children in self-managing their sniffles and help all children to keep germs away!





Snacks and Catering

Please send your child to school with a named water bottle. These will be kept in class for your child to access throughout the day.

Please send your child to school with a small playtime snack that they can open themselves (where possible). They will be able to eat their snack outside at break times. Sadly, at present, we will not be able to run the tuck shop or 'Tuity Fruity' Tuesday snacks.

Initially our school catering team will provide a cold packed lunch service to all pupils who require it. All P1 - 3 pupils are entitled to a free packed lunch as well as a number of registered older pupils.

Parents are asked to use the I-Pay system to pay for school catering which will help to reduce the use of cash in school. I-Pay letters will be sent out in the first week for those children in P4 - P7.

Children may bring in their own packed lunch from home. On warm days you may wish to add a small ice block to keep your child's packed lunch cool. Please try to ensure that your child can open the contents of their own packed lunch as independently as possible.

Visiting or Entering the School Building

Visitors to school including parents, contractors, deliveries will be kept to the bare minimum.

Parents of P1 - P3 pupils are able to enter the school grounds to support their child in the mornings and at home time but **no parents will be allowed in the school building** except in an emergency.

If you have any news, questions or concerns please contact the school office initially either by telephone 01340 831269 or send an email to:

admin.rothesp@moray-edunet.gov.uk

You may also wish to email your child's class teachers direct through their Glow email:

Mrs MacDonell - gw09macdonellhazel01@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Ferguson - gw14fergusonyvonne@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Timms - gw14timmsclaire@glow.sch.uk

Ms Morgan - gw09morganjanet@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Sargeant - gw09sargeantfaithmar@glow.sch.uk

Please remember that your child's teacher will be teaching in class fulltime and may not be able to answer your emails on the same day. If your communication is urgent please use the school admin email or telephone number.

The Curriculum

Returning to school after being away from the building for so long could be overwhelming for many of our pupils. We will need to give careful consideration to the emotional, physical and mental health and wellbeing of our learners.

We will use our vision and values to support the return to school for pupils, staff and parents and carers.

Happy
Enthusiastic
Achieving
Respectful
Teamwork



The wellbeing of our pupils, staff and families is at the centre of all our recovery planning. Our staff team will work with the whole school community to explain our approaches and provide reassurance and support to learners and families. We will continue with our 'open door' policy – through phone calls and emails to offer support and guidance to parents and carers.

In response to all of this and also from the break from face to face 'in school' education; the curriculum has been designed for recovery of learning for the first part of the new session. These priorities are the pillars of our curriculum and of the final year of our three year school improvement journey.

The Curriculum—Priority Area 1 - Health and Wellbeing

Much of our time when we return to the school building is going to be about building relationships, pupil-teacher/pupil-pupil/ parent-teacher. We need to ensure that every child is feeling happy and safe. They will be supported in getting to know their new classes and teachers as well as becoming familiar with new routines and procedures in school. We do not expect this to be quick process and we are mindful that our families will have had different experiences of lockdown and home learning. The children returning to us may be different from the children that left school in March. We are trained in Restorative Approaches and Growth Mindset as well as working collaboratively with other agencies to support the mental health of pupils.

Each class will use a book or film with a Health and Wellbeing theme to focus on in the first few weeks.

We also want our pupils to have fun when they return and spend as much time as possible outdoors where they can play and give them a sense of freedom.



The Curriculum—Priority Area 2 - Literacy

A sound foundation of literacy is vital to access all the other areas of the curriculum. We rely on our reading, writing, listening and talking skills in order to engage with all other aspects of our learning.

In order to recover the learning, we will continue to ensure that literacy is a main part of every day in school. We will work across the three areas of literacy and consolidate and extend skills.

To support this we will use our literacy progressions and pathways as well as the new Highland Key Learning in Literacy Milestones which gives a clear focus of where children should be at the end of each year in primary. Learning will be targeted at individual children and/or groups according to the skills they need to develop. Baseline assessments will be carried out to identify gaps at each stage.

We will also use online programmes, such as Star Reader, Accelerated Reader, Clicker and Lexia, to assess and promote literacy skills.



The Curriculum—Priority Area 3 - Numeracy

Number processes are the building blocks of all numeracy learning. Without a sound knowledge of even the most basic number processes it is impossible to develop understanding of more complex maths as you progress through school.

In order to recover the learning, we will ensure that number processes is a main part of learning in school every day.

To support this we will use our numeracy progressions and pathways and our Maths Passports Targets to assess where our learners are and plan learning appropriately. Learning will be targeted at individual children and/or groups according to the skills they need to develop. Baseline assessments will be carried out to identify gaps at each stage. Staff training and delivery of SEAL Maths (Stages of Early Arithmetical Learning) Approaches will be used for targeted individuals and groups.

We will also use Sumdog as an online tool to support assessment and promote numeracy skills.

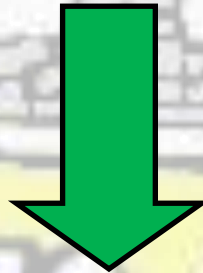


The Curriculum - Other Areas

Other areas of the curriculum will not be forgotten but will not be covered in the same depth as usual whilst we focus on the recovery in our three key areas.

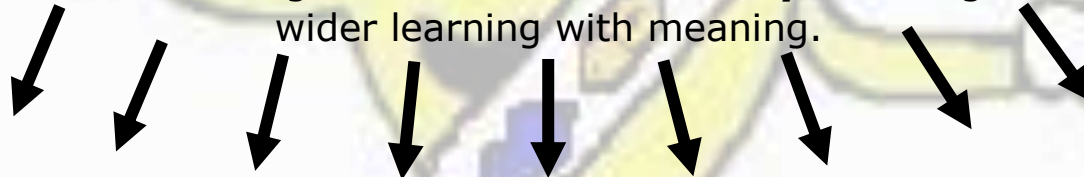
Unless children feel secure they cannot learn effectively

Health & Wellbeing



Literacy skills are the keys to unlock learning in all other areas

Number Processes are the building blocks of all **Numeracy** learning and connect much of our wider learning with meaning.



Learning is unlocked in all other areas.

Science, Technology, Social Subjects, Modern Languages, Expressive Arts, RME

Afternoons will involve IDL project/theme work with a focus still on the three priority areas. There will be opportunities for individual and group recovery work supported by Pupils Support Assistants, Classroom Assistants, Support for Learning Teacher and Head Teacher.

We plan to monitor the need for our recovery curriculum throughout the first two terms. We will evaluate where the pupils are in their learning and adapt the curriculum appropriately. For some children this may mean a continued focus on the priority areas whilst others can begin work more across the wider curriculum areas.