

Hillside School

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Our Reference: DS/MK

9 November 2020



Hillside School move to Barony Campus Wednesday 18th November 2020

Information for parents/ carers



Dear Parents and Carers

The information below should answer some of your main questions about our imminent move but please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any further questions.

- Our pupils' last day in Hillside will be Wednesday 11th November 2020. This will be an emotional day for us all and we are just so sorry that current COVID restrictions mean we cannot have a party or invite you and all our friends to commemorate the occasion in normal Hillside fashion! We will definitely do something nice with pupils in classes with a few treats and we will look forward to the day we can all come together in our new school as a whole school community. What a celebration that will be! 😊
- Your child will not attend school this Thursday and Friday or the following Monday and Tuesday as we will be very busy getting moved and unpacked and getting everything ready for your child's first day! **Our first official day for pupils in the new school will be Wednesday 18th November 2020.**
- Our current telephone line and number are transferring to the new campus. This work will be taking place on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th November and so we may not be contactable by telephone on these days. If you urgently need to speak to someone please email me on debbie.skeoch@east-ayrshire.gov.uk or put a message on the 'Hillside Family Help and Hugs!' Facebook group and we will call you. By Monday 16th November the phone line should be working as normal.



- The times of the school day are changing as previously advised. We will be starting at 9.15am and finishing at 3.15pm each day. This is to ensure as stress free an arrival to school as possible for your child as it means they will avoid the busiest times at the campus. Your child's taxi company should contact you to let you know your new pick up and drop off times. If they have not done this by next Monday, I would advise calling them to check.
- If you are dropping your own child off by car then please come to the barrier and use the intercom. The main reception will let you through and you should come to the front of the Hillside main entrance and join the taxi queue there. We will come to you to take your child to class.
- If you are bringing your child and walking then please come to the Hillside main entrance and staff will meet you there to take your child to class.
- **Please ensure that face coverings are worn by any parents and carers dropping off or collecting their child across all areas of the campus.**
- Your child will remain in their current class with existing staff and follow their usual timetable in the first few weeks. Any changes will be reviewed and planned in the new year when we are all more settled in the new environment. There are lots of amazing resources and learning spaces for your child to experience and we are hopeful that the new hydrotherapy pool will also be in use by the end of the year which is great news!
- Current COVID restrictions will still apply in the new building and so we will not be interacting significantly with any pupils other than our own in the initial phase. This will be reviewed regularly in line with all COVID protocols.
- We intend to work as far as is practically possible in individual classes and overall in 2 main bubbles - Primary bubble and Secondary bubble - although some staff may need to cross these bubbles to ensure we meet the needs of the pupils. All staff are now wearing face coverings for the majority of the school day and a few pupils wear face-coverings on transport or in communal areas and corridors. Pupil use of face-coverings is of course completely dependent on individual need and subject to exemption as appropriate.
- PE can now take place indoors as well as outdoors and so Susan Burgess our PE teacher will be taking classes through the campus to experience the new PE halls and resources. This will only include our own pupils at this stage. There will be no pupil buddies.
- Pupil lunches will continue to take place in 2 sittings to minimise numbers at any one time. We have our own separate lunch hall and pupils will be able to go to the hatch to choose and request their lunch and our current cooks Anne and Moira will be there daily to serve them. Primary pupils will now have lunch at 11.45am daily whilst Secondary pupils will eat at 12.30pm.

- There will still be a daily snack and we would appreciate if you could send this snack in initially. When settled in the new school we will letter you separately regarding how to pay for your child's snack through PARENTPAY. In the meantime please ensure that you have set up your PARENTPAY account and contact the office if you need any help to do this.
- Michelle, our senior clerical assistant will still be working in Hillside's new office and so you will be able to speak to her when you ring the office and Mark our janitor is part of a much wider team now but will still support Hillside at times throughout the week and pupils will still get to see him and enjoy a chat.

Thank you all so much for your patience and support throughout such difficult times. Moving school at the same time as managing COVID measures has its challenges however we are very lucky to have such supportive parents and families and of course some amazing children and young people who make this all worthwhile.

Leaving Hillside School is definitely the end of an era and we have many happy memories of school life here but change is good and we now have an amazing school facility to move to and ensure some incredible learning experiences for our pupils.

I personally promise that we will do everything we can to make sure that the new Hillside on Barony Campus continues to be the 'safe haven' we all appreciate currently and cannot wait till we can have you all on site to experience and contribute to our usual supportive school ethos and 'open door' policy.

Yours sincerely



Debbie Skeoch
Head Teacher