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Parent/Carer

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Return to School: August 2020**

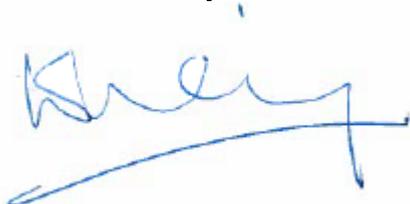
You will likely be aware that the Deputy First Minister made a statement in Parliament on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 with regards the return to school in August. He advised that as a result of the continuing good progress being made in Scotland in tackling the Covid-19 pandemic and provided we stay on track as a country, then we should prepare **for all pupils to return to school on 12<sup>th</sup> August**, however this is dependent upon us continuing to suppress the virus nationally.

Schools will continue to prepare contingency plans and share these with you should there be any lapse in our positive progress in suppressing the virus in Scotland meaning schools are unable to re-open fully as announced this week. This remains a risk as was outlined in Wednesday's statement by the Deputy First Minister. Equally, Aberdeenshire will shortly publish its Local Phasing Delivery Plan outlining the steps we would be taking in the event we cannot have a full return to schools in August.

Many parents and carers will continue to have anxieties around Covid-19 and we will continue to follow all advice issued by the Scottish Government and by Public Health Scotland. Many questions still remain and we would hope to have answers to these as soon as possible. Indeed, we anticipate further advice and guidance being published in the coming days and weeks and we will share this information via the Council's usual communication channels throughout the summer holiday period as required.

I appreciate the Covid-19 situation has been very challenging for many families, for parents and for young people and thank you all for your continued support of your schools at this time.

Yours sincerely



**Laurence Findlay**  
**Director of Education & Children's Services**