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Re: Parent survey

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you to all of you who have completed the survey on the Return to School last week. At time of writing we had 195 responses which is a fantastic response. Below you will find what the survey said, with some actions from the school as a response. The guidance around re-opening.

Return to School – Parent Survey August 2020

How helpful did you find the guidance on the reopening published by the school?

97% found it helpful or very helpful

How helpful did you find the parent information evening on the reopening of the school?

68% found this helpful or very helpful, 30% were unable to attend.

What were your main concerns about sending your child back to school full time? And then What are your concerns now pupils are back full time?

20% had no concerns, rising to 41% after our return.

49% were concerned about social distancing with peers, reducing to 38%.

35% were concerned about travel to school, reducing to 13%.

26% were concerned about getting back to learning face to face, reducing to 13%

31% were concerned about cleaning in school, reducing to 14%

34% were concerned about hygiene, reducing to 18%

24% were concerned with social distancing with staff, reducing to 13%.

This shows that social distancing among peers remains the biggest concern among parents, but that all concerns have been reduced and we will work to continue to reduce these further.

We are working with pupils to maintain social distancing. where possible.

What are your concerns now pupils are back full time? And then, How does your child feel about being back to school now?

40% felt confident before returning, rising to 74% after the return.

48% had mixed feelings about returning, reducing to 20%.

11% were not confident, reducing to 3%

1% were not sure about how they felt before returning, rising to 3%.

How does your child feel about how they are learning in school?

88% said it was a bit different, but it seems to be OK.

9% said it was like it was before school closures in March.

3% said they were finding it difficult.

Pupils are asked to sanitise their hands on entry and exit to the building and every time they move classroom.

92% felt that this was appropriate

Pupils are asked to clean their work areas when they leave a classroom and again when they enter a classroom.

95% felt that this was appropriate

How easy has your child found it to socially distance from their peers?

18% said it was easy

49% said it was difficult

33% were not sure

How easy has your child found it to socially distance from staff?

65% said it was easy

8% said it was difficult

27% were not sure

How confident are you in the school's reopening plan?

86% were confident

11% were neither confident nor not confident

3% were not confident.

I would encourage any parent or carer who is not confident with our reopening plan to get in touch with the school so we can discuss this.

Do you have any comments to support the school in future planning?

PE Changing

National guidance is saying that changing facilities cannot be used at present so we are unable to allow this in the school. We are looking at wet weather options, but this cannot include any physical activity indoors. As with all guidance, this is constantly under review and we will communicate changes as they happen.

Masks/face coverings

The Scottish Government guidance states that face coverings are not required and so we would be unable to mandate their use. They are now recommended on school transport. Again, all guidance is reviewed and decisions around face coverings in school may change. We will communicate this to you if changes are made.

Social distancing

This is the largest area of concern for parents. The guidance states that all pupils must be in school so we are unable to physically distance within classrooms at all times. Staff have been encouraged to physically distance pupils where this is possible in smaller classes. To encourage improved flow across the school we have implemented a one-way system and have removed bells to spread the flow over a period of time rather than all leaving classrooms at the same time. We continue to encourage social distancing including through signage, assemblies and notices. We recognise that pupils do not naturally socially distance and we will continue to remind them of their responsibilities. We have also reminded pupils of their responsibilities in the community around social distancing and face coverings and have also sent messages home about this.

Staggered start/exit times

One request was to have staggered start and end times. We have been doing this by allowing a year group to enter and not allowing others to enter until corridors are clear – this does not actually take

long and has worked effectively. We are allowing S1-3 pupils to leave classrooms slightly earlier at the end of the day too.

Study periods

We have been communicating with all pupils around this and we have been sending emails to parents of any pupil under 16 affected by study periods to gather consent if they have requested to stay at home for study – this work is ongoing as pupils complete the Google Form requesting this option.

Buses

Concerns around the Kingswells buses not following guidance have been passed on to the Transport Unit and are being followed up.

Not safe to open/contingency plan

We recognise the concerns that some parents have around the full re-opening of schools. This was the expectation of the Scottish Government in the guidance released on July 30th this year.

Lessons on the virus

PSE lessons will cover the virus to ensure pupils have a full understanding of the risks associated with it.

Continue with Google Classroom

Most teachers are continuing to post work on Google Classroom, but it will not be as it was when the school was closed and teacher capacity to respond to emails etc will be reduced as they now have full timetables of in class teaching.

Practical lessons

We are currently following guidance around the re-starting of practical activities. Some have started with strict hygiene protocols and risk assessments in place and other subject areas are awaiting guidance. We plan to build the delivery of practical lessons over time to make sure we are doing so in a Covid secure manner.

Dyce – confusion

We apologise if there has been any confusion around classes at Dyce Academy. We published a joint letter on 19th August that has, hopefully, addressed these confusions. We continue to work closely together and are hoping to re-start the shuttle bus for in class teaching for all as soon as possible.

Cleaning of desks

We will make sure that all cleaning is carried out in a manner that reduces the risk of transmission. A reminder of the protocols will be sent to all staff to ensure consistency.

Toilets

Toilets are cleaned regularly during the day and pupils are reminded of the protocols regarding their use.

We would like to thank all those that left very positive messages and comments – we will make sure staff see all of these.

Many thanks and please take care,

Mike Paul
HT, Bucksburn Academy