Dear Parents/Carers

We hope this finds you all well and enjoying the beautiful weather.  Apologies for filling your in-boxes today as an additional e-mail was sent out this morning in relation to Pupil Progress Reports, classes and staffing.

Amongst the sunshine, from Saturday in Aberdeenshire, the move to Level 1 will mean that:

* A total of **12 people** from up to **12 households** will be able to meet in gardens or public spaces *(under-12s do not count towards the total number outside)*
* A total of **six people** from **three households** will be able to meet in each other’s homes and can stay overnight. Physical distancing will not be required
* Up to **eight people** from **three households** can meet in an indoor public place like a café, pub, or restaurant
* Up to 100 people will be able to attend weddings and funerals
* Informal childcare is permitted *(e.g. looking after a grandchild)*
* Soft play venues and funfairs can reopen
* Tradespeople can carry out work and repairs in homes, including painting and decorating
* Travel is permitted anywhere in Scotland in Level 0, 1 and 2 areas, but people should not enter a Level 3 or 4 area unless for a permitted reason
* Travel is also permitted in England, Wales, Northern Island, The Isle of Man and the Channel Islands but local travel rules should be checked in advance
* Lateral flow tests should be undertaken before travelling to Scotland’s island communities
* People should continue to work from home where possible*.*
* Mitigations already in place in schools are to remain.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon stressed the importance of getting a second dose of the vaccine, particularly as the Indian variant, which has been renamed as the Delta variant by the World Health Organisation, now accounts for more than half of all new daily cases.

Amongst the changes to restrictions, we are all asked to continue to stick to the rules where we live and follow the public health advice. Physical distancing, handwashing, face coverings – all of this is still important for now. These basic precautions will reduce our chances of getting or spreading the virus.  We are advised to get tested regularly, get vaccinated when we are asked, and to continue to follow the public health advice.

All the links you need can be found on the [NHS Inform website](https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/test-and-protect/coronavirus-covid-19-testing).

Please continue to remember that the asymptomatic testing programme does not replace the current testing policy for those with symptoms. School staff and pupils who experience symptoms of coronavirus must self-isolate immediately and arrange a PCR test at [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test). People with symptoms must not rely on a negative LFD result as a reason to continue to attend school or their setting.

Finally…… we would be most grateful if there could be some conversations at home about appropriate language for school.  We are having significant issues with swearing, particularly with our younger pupils. Not sure if Covid and Lockdown can be blamed for this, however the language being used has been quite disturbing for pupils and staff.  Thank you for your support in this matter.

Have a lovely weekend and continue to take care.

Kindest regards

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Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children’s Services



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