

*Forehill Primary School*

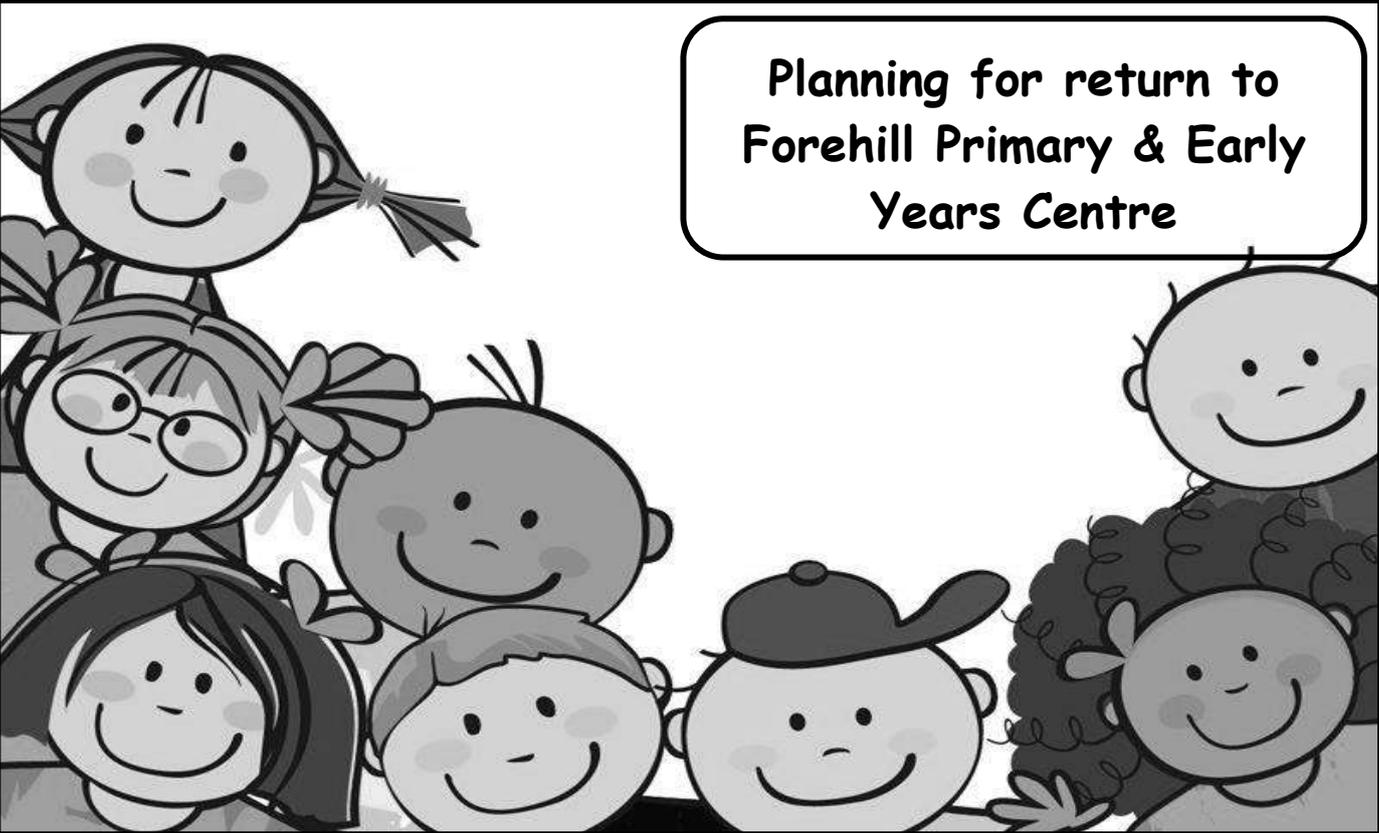
# **NEWSLINK**

**June 2020**



Welcome to the final "Newslink" for this session. At this time of year, we would normally be enjoying sports, outings and of course, celebrating all the amazing things our young people have achieved over the year. These are really strange times, and I know you will all be anxious about children returning to school in August. My sincere thanks to you all for the way you have engaged in learning with your child and class teachers in the last few months. The support we have received along with the feedback has been much appreciated. We recognise this has not been easy for anyone!

We would like nothing more than to be able to have all children returning to school full time in August, but this is simply not possible. Underpinning all the decisions we have made is the wellbeing and safety of all children, staff and parents. Within the newsletter, I have tried to answer as many of the possible questions you may have, and I hope you find the information in this newsletter reassuring and informative.



## **Planning for return to Forehill Primary & Early Years Centre**

Along with this newsletter, you will find a note indicating your child's class and teacher for next session. From August onwards, all classes will be split, to allow learning in small groups.

**Your Child(ren)'s Learning Group is:**

Group

## People Directorate

Depute Chief Executive and Director - People: Douglas Hutchison

County Buildings  
Wellington Square  
Ayr  
KA7 1DR

Our Ref: DH/LD  
Date: 10 June 2020

Your Ref:



Dear Parent / Carer,

The First Minister has outlined a phased approach to lifting the restrictions on lockdown across Scotland. I want to keep you up to date on what this means here in South Ayrshire. Firstly, I would like to say thank you to you and our children and young people for working with teachers and practitioners to continue learning through online support and learning packs during what has been a challenging period. I will now set out what is planned in the weeks and months ahead.

### June 2020

Scottish Government stated that from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, schools could be open to staff preparing for the return in August. We have taken the first week in June to ensure buildings are safe and clean for staff to return. During the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> June head teachers and senior staff can return to school for planning and to meet individual staff or groups of staff. From the 15<sup>th</sup> June onwards all staff in schools may return, but only for specific purposes such as planning and preparation for the new session in August. In addition, schools may have a small number of pupils in school for transition. However, the time available for such transition visits is very short and may focus on those children who need it most. Schools will close as normal for the summer holiday on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June with online and distance learning provided by schools and early years centres coming to an end on the 26<sup>th</sup> June for the summer holiday. Over the summer holiday period we will continue to provide food boxes to those who need them most. Please let the school / early years centre know if you no longer require a food box delivered over the summer.

### August 2020

The new school session will begin for all pupils on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August**. This is a week earlier than planned and is a Scottish Government decision and we will issue updated school holiday dates soon. Schools and early years centres are currently planning for the 'rotation' system that will need to operate when they return. The preferred rotation for primary schools and early years centres is a two group rotation, supported by 66% of parents who completed the recent survey. At present we are able to confirm that 30 of our primary schools and all four of our standalone early years centres are able to accommodate a two group rotation or, in a few very small schools, all pupils at one time. At present, 12 of our primary schools may have a three group rotation due to limitations on space available and staff available. Some larger primary schools would require a significant number of additional teachers and teaching spaces to achieve a two group rotation. I realise there is a sense of frustration and unfairness in the rotations, but can assure you that everything possible is being done to achieve the maximum number of pupils in schools. A number of complaints have been received about this issue, but there will be no change in the current position. I am hopeful that this will be a temporary measure and will only be in place for as long as needed. I understand that this will be challenging for families and they will be making adjustments for work and childcare arrangements. At the first possible opportunity when we are allowed to amend any of the social distancing measures in place, we will do so to allow more children to be physically present in schools. Schools will work hard to ensure family groups attend on the same rotation but it will be almost impossible to account for parents' working patterns. The more detailed information about your child's pattern of attendance will come directly from your school or early years centre.

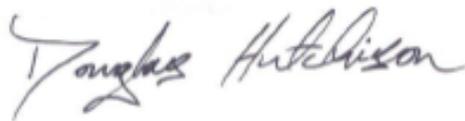
## Childcare

During the school closure we have provided free childcare for key workers where both adults in the household are key workers. Childcare will continue to be provided as required by Scottish Government over the summer holiday but this should only be used as a last resort. We are currently considering options for the period from August onwards and will provide the details prior to schools returning in August.

## Health and safety

The safety of your children and our staff remains a central part of any planning for the return to school. Our overriding priority remains to suppress the spread of the virus. Schools will operate differently including drop off and pick up arrangements. The detail will come directly from the school / early years centre and I know you will continue to support your school / early years centre to ensure the school community is safe and continues to thrive.

Yours faithfully



**Douglas Hutchison**  
Depute Chief Executive and Director - People



## Attendance Pattern at School – Primary 1-7 Classes

Schools in South Ayrshire will re-open for groups of pupils on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August**. All schools have been working extremely hard to explore options within the constraints of available accommodation and staff, to develop a model for children to attend school safely.

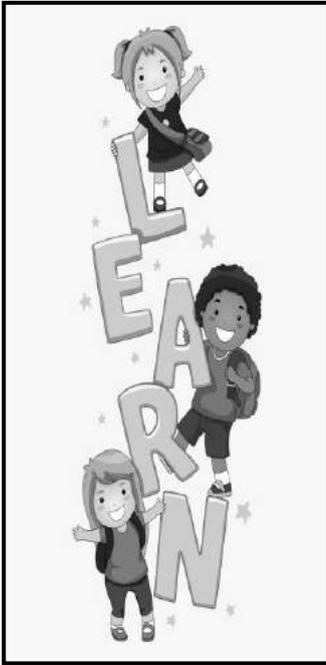
To ensure social distancing of 2m in all classrooms, and as most of our classes have an average of 30 children, within Forehill we will **initially** be running a three-group rotation for learning. This means children will be in school for **one full day** and **one half day** per week, in small groups. Due to the number of pupils, accommodation, and staff available, we have opted for a model which ensured children were in school on the same days and at the same times each week. **Your child's group is noted on the front of the newsletter.**

	Group A		Group B		Group C	
	am	pm	am	pm	am	pm
<b>Monday</b>	In School		Home Learning		Home Learning	
<b>Tuesday</b>	In School	Home Learning	Home Learning	In School	Home Learning	
<b>Wednesday</b>	Home Learning		In School		Home Learning	
<b>Thursday</b>	Home Learning		Home Learning		In School	
<b>Friday</b>	Home Learning		Home Learning		In School	Home Learning

## Staggered Start and Finish Times

As you will see from the grid below, there will be staggered starting and finishing times for all children to allow us to limit the flow of children coming and going from the school. We would ask that ALL parents ensure they stick to these times, to prevent high numbers around the school entrances. The finishing time is earlier due to the fact the lunch break is cut to 30 minutes.

GATE	ENTRANCE	CLASS	FULL DAY GROUP A – MONDAY GROUP B – WEDNESDAY GROUP C – THURSDAY				GROUP A – TUESDAY MORNING GROUP C – FRIDAY MORNING				GROUP B - TUESDAY AFTERNOON		
			Start	Break	Lunch	Finish	Start	Break	Lunch	Finish	Start	Short Break	Finish
		Senior Leadership Team		School Assistants	School Assistants			School Assistants					
1	Own Class	P2C	8.50	10.15	12.00	2.20	8.50	10.15	PL Home	11.20	12.20	1.45	2.50
1	Own Class	P2/3	8.55	10.15	12.00	2.25	8.55	10.15	PL Home	11.25	12.25	1.45	2.55
1	Main Door	P3C	9.00	10.30	12.30	2.30	9.00	10.30	PL Home	11.30	12.30	2.00	3.00
1	Own Class	P3H	9.05	10.30	12.30	2.35	9.05	10.30	PL Home	11.35	12.35	2.00	3.05
2	Own Class	P2G	8.50	10.15	12.00	2.20	8.50	10.15	PL Home	11.20	12.20	1.45	2.50
2	Own Class	P1M	8.55	10.30	12.30	2.25	8.55	10.30	PL Home	11.25	12.25	2.00	2.55
2	Own Class	P1C	9.00	10.30	12.30	2.30	9.00	10.30	PL Home	11.30	12.30	2.00	3.00
2	Own Class	P1L	9.05	10.30	12.30	2.35	9.05	10.30	PL Home	11.35	12.35	2.00	3.05
3	P4 Entrance	P4Z	8.50	10.15	12.00	2.20	8.50	10.15	PL Home	11.20	12.20	1.45	2.50
3	P4 Entrance	P4W	8.55	10.15	12.00	2.25	8.55	10.15	PL Home	11.25	12.25	1.45	2.55
3	Music Door	P5M	9.00	10.30	12.30	2.30	9.00	10.30	PL Home	11.30	12.30	2.00	3.00
3	Music Door	P5P	9.05	10.30	12.30	2.35	9.05	10.30	PL Home	11.35	12.35	2.00	3.05
4	Left Stair	P6R	8.50	10.15	12.00	2.20	8.50	10.15	PL Home	11.20	12.20	1.45	2.50
4	Left Stair	P6K	8.55	10.15	12.00	2.25	8.55	10.15	PL Home	11.25	12.25	1.45	2.55
4	Right Stair	P7M	9.00	10.30	12.30	2.30	9.00	10.30	PL Home	11.30	12.30	2.00	3.00
4	Right Stair	P7S	9.05	10.30	12.30	2.35	9.05	10.30	PL Home	11.35	12.35	2.00	3.05



### **What will learning look like?**

When children are in school, they will undertake learning activities which will support progress in Literacy, Numeracy and of course, Health & Wellbeing. Teachers will continue to provide support to all pupils, and will set key tasks which should be returned to school the following week. In addition, we will continue to post on the learning hub on our website, additional home learning tasks which children can access if possible. Children in P4-7 classes will be taught and encouraged to make use of Microsoft Teams to communicate with their teacher, access and return learning tasks.

### **Learning in the Early Years Centre**

We are unable to run exactly the same model of learning within the Early Years centre, and following advice from Scottish Government, due to be published on 15<sup>th</sup> June, we will be able to provide information about attendance patterns for children within the Early Years Centre.

### **Learning Groups**

Children are organised into three learning groups in each class called "learning bubbles" which will ensure we are minimising the number of children mixing with each other. Groups will work with the same teacher, as far as possible, each time they are in school.

Where a child has brothers/sisters in P1-7 classes, the children will all attend school on the same days each week.

### **Accessing Technology at Home to Support Learning**

Some of the learning tasks provided by class teachers, are on-line activities, within particular websites. We are conscious that some children may not have access to internet, or indeed a laptop, i-pad, x-box or desktop. Should this be the case, I would ask that you e-mail me to allow me to explore how we can support with this at home.

### **Classroom Organisation**

All children will have their own work station and access to their own "toolkit" including pencils, rubbers, rulers, coloured pencils, glue-sticks, scissors etc. Other than a schoolbag, we would ask that children do not bring anything else to school such as toys, pencil cases etc. They will use this same work station, which will be cleaned regularly each time they are in school. Teachers will of course, make use of the outdoors as much as possible.

### **Keeping the Children and Staff Safe**

Our highest priority is to ensure we have in place, all possible measures to keep our young people and staff safe. We are currently undertaking a full risk assessment, which when complete, will be uploaded to the school website for reference. This will continually be updated and reviewed to ensure we are following all guidance issued by Scottish Government, NHS and the local authority. This includes handwashing, social distancing, moving around the school etc.



## Parents in Playground

As you know, we normally welcome parents into the school at any time. However, during this period, we would respectfully ask that **NO** parents or adults, other than new P1 parents come into the school playground. This will limit the number of people going through gates, and will make social distancing easier. We would also ask there is a **ONE** child, **ONE** adult approach at all times when coming to and leaving the gates. Staff will be in the playground at the arrival and departure times to ensure children leave the playground safely.

## Entrance to Playground

To assist you in managing social distancing, we would ask that particular stages enter the playground by specific gates as follows and as noted on the grid on the next page. A member of the senior leadership team will be in attendance at the gates at the start and end of each learning session to assist and support where needed.

- Gate 1: Beside the car park on Holmston Drive
- Gate 2: Beside the infant Trim Trail, and on Caledonia Road
- Gate 3: At the top end of the senior playground, and on Caledonia Road
- Gate 4: Large Gate beside the senior Trim Trail, and on Caledonia Road

## Entrance to Classrooms

There will be no lining up in the playground, and children will be encouraged to enter the building freely, by a route explained to them on their first day. This will assist with social distancing.

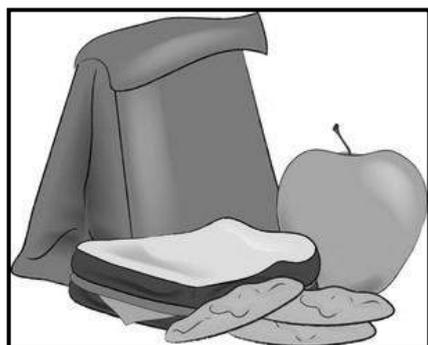
P1-3 children will enter and leave through their individual external classroom door with the exception of P3C, who will use the righthand infant entrance as normal. Children in P4 will use their normal entrance, P5 children will use the door at the rear of the school beside our music room. P6 children will use the left-hand door in the senior playground and use the left staircase. P7 children will use the right-hand door in the senior playground and use the right staircase.

## Breaks

Breaks will also be staggered to assist with the numbers of children coming and going from school. Each stage will have an allocated area of the playground which will be supervised by staff at all times.

## Lunches

Children who would normally be in receipt of a free meal will have these provided in school on the days they attend. These will be packed lunches, with a choice of sandwich fillings. Where children attend for a full day, lunch will be delivered to their classroom, where they will be supervised to eat this before going outdoors for a lunch break. When the child attends for a half day, morning children will be given their lunch to take home with them, and afternoon children will be given time to have lunch when they arrive, before starting learning. Children who receive a free school meal and wish to have this on the days they are not in school would be able to collect a lunch from the school.



Where children are bringing a lunch from home, we would ask that these are sent in **DISPOSABLE** containers, which would be binned after lunch. Children are still encouraged to bring their own water bottle, which can be refilled from water fountains.

### Cleaning

A strict cleaning regime is in place, with staff from facilities management on site at all times. Teaching staff will ensure tables within teaching areas are wiped and cleaned regularly. Computer equipment and other resources will also be wiped and cleaned after each use.

### Handwashing

**ALL** staff and children will use anti-bacterial hand wash on entry to the school, after breaks and before they leave the building.



### School Uniform

We would ask that children would wear their normal school uniform on the days they are attending. The hope is, that as time goes on, the attendance days will increase. We thank you for your support in this.

### Keeping in Touch

Throughout the lockdown period, staff have kept in touch with children and parents in a range of ways. We have been grateful to the huge number of parents who have supported and welcomed this. As we move forward in the new session, staff will still be contactable by e-mail to assist with queries or questions about any aspect of your child's learning or wellbeing.

### Children or Family Members Showing Symptoms

Where any child, or any family member in the household is showing symptoms such as a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - parents should call 111 for advice. The child should **NOT** attend school. Where a child begins to feel unwell at school, parents called and the appropriate procedures followed.

### Visitors to the School



Normally we would welcome parents and visitors to the school at any time, but we would ask until further notice that parents who have queries or concerns call the school office on **01292 612461** in the first instance. Queries will then be directed to the most appropriate member of staff. Parents should not come to the school without first phoning the school office. This is not how we like to work, but as step to limit the number of adults coming to and from the school office. Thanks for your support!

### New Primary 1 Pupils

Arrangements have been sent out to new P1 parents, with dates and times for the children, along with one adult to visit the school to meet their teacher. We look forward to seeing the children on these dates. Please note these groups cannot be changed and other dates are unable to be arranged.

### Reporting to Parents

Within this pack of information, you will find your child's report. I hope you find this informative, but would remind parents this report includes learning and progress up to 20<sup>th</sup> March. Should you wish any further information about your child, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher.

## Parent Council News

Sadly, our parent council had to cancel our Summer Fair, which is always a great event. The group are continuing to think ahead with plans to be able to run future events when safe and appropriate to do so. My thanks to the group for purchasing ties for all P7 children leaving us, and book bags for all new P1 children. I am indebted to the group for their on-going support to the school and are delighted to receive a donation of £7000 to the school to support in funding a range of activities and equipment. We will of course, have discussions about this on return in August. Well done and thanks everyone!



### Forehill's Got Talent

Many thanks to those who sent recordings to Mrs Howlett for Forehill's got Talent. We hope to be able to share these with you through our facebook page over the next couple of weeks. A lot of amazing talent out there!

## Sports

Thanks to Mrs Sutherland for organising the Virtual Sports this year. I know many of the children took part in this, and Mrs Sutherland will soon be collating house points to announce our winning team for 2020. If children haven't done so, we would encourage you to send score sheets (P4-7) or a single photo (P1-3) to Mrs Sutherland by Friday, to ensure your team get their points!

## Moving On

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our young people moving to secondary school every success for the future. We were so disappointed not to be able to give them the send-off they rightly deserve. As always, we will continue to follow their progress and journeys with great interest. We plan, when safe to do so, to organise a fun event for all our P7 pupils and will be in touch as soon as possible with more information.



## Revised Holiday Dates for Session 2020-2021

Please find attached to the newsletter, the amended school holiday list for session 2020-21. I would encourage parents to take diary notes of these, as there have been a few changes due to the earlier start date.

## Updates for Parents

Until the school term ends on June 26<sup>th</sup>, we will continue to send out updates through Facebook, Groupcall Xpressions App, twitter and the school website and would encourage parents to ensure they access these platforms for the most up to date information. The final learning plans will be uploaded to the website on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**. Please note class teachers will be unable to respond to e-mails after 26<sup>th</sup> June. Should you have an urgent query, or require assistance, I would ask that e-mails are sent to myself on the e-mail address below.

I know things unfortunately continue to be challenging for us all but want to reassure you that all decisions we are making about the way forward around learning groups are in attempts to meet the needs and views of the majority within the school. We are acutely aware we will not be able to please everyone, and for that we apologise. I would ask that you continue to work with us through these challenging times, knowing that our main aim is to ensure the children feel secure, safe and get positive, valuable and high-quality learning experiences during the times they are in school. Of course, should the national guidance change, we will review the plans and change as appropriate.

On behalf of everyone in our school, can I take this opportunity to thank you for your on-going support, and hope, in these trying circumstances, you at least manage to enjoy some good weather over the summer period, when hopefully some further restrictions may be lifted. Please take care of yourselves. We look forward to seeing the children in school from Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August onwards.

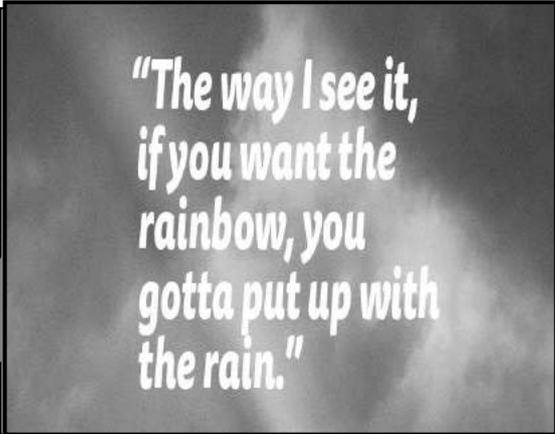
As always, should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch and I will do what I can to assist.

Many thanks &  
Best Wishes,

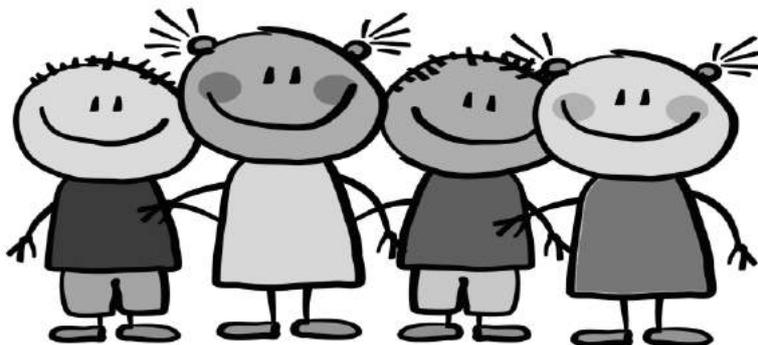


David Watson  
Head Teacher

e-mail: [david.watson3@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:david.watson3@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)



"The way I see it,  
if you want the  
rainbow, you  
gotta put up with  
the rain."



## SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

### Educational Services

#### Amended School Holiday Arrangements: 2020/2021

Term	Break	Dates of Attendance	Cumulative Working Days
First	Mid Term	Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Tues 11 Aug 2020
		Pupils return	Wed 12 Aug 2020
		<i>local holiday</i>	Fri 18 Sept 2020
		<i>local holiday</i>	Mon 21 Sept 2020
		Close	Fri 9 Oct 2020
		Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Mon 19 Oct 2020
		Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Tues 20 Oct 2020
		Re-open (Pupils)	Wed 21 Oct 2020
		Close	Wed 23 Dec 2020
			90
Second	Mid Term	Re-open	Wed 6 Jan 2021
		Close	Fri 12 Feb 2021
		<i>local holiday</i>	Mon 15 Feb 2021
		Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Mon 22 Feb 2021
		Re-open (Pupils)	Tues 23 Feb 2021
		Close	Thurs 1 Apr 2021
			147
Third	May Day	Re-open	Mon 19 Apr 2021
			Mon 3 May 2021
		Close	Wed 5 May 2021
		Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Thurs 6 May 2021
		Re-open (Pupils)	Fri 7 May 2021
		<i>local holiday</i>	Mon 31 May 2021
		Re-open	Tues 1 June 2021
		Close	Fri 25 Jun 2021
			195
	Session 2021/22	Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Tues 17 Aug 2021
		Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Wed 18 Aug 2021
		Pupils return	Thurs 19 Aug 2021

NB Good Friday: 2nd April 2021

*Pupil's attendance will be 190 days after deducting 5 in-service days.*