

# SHETLAND ISLANDS COUNCIL

## Children's Services Department Education Service



### BALTASOUND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Unst, Shetland, ZE2 9DY

Head Teacher: Mr Paul Thomson

Tel: (01595) 807020

Peerie School, Big Dreams

Dear Parents and Carers

## Arrangements for the return of children and young people during the first week of the new school term, Tuesday 11 August to Friday 14 August

### 1. Introduction

On Friday 31 July, Mrs. Budge, the Director of Children's Services, wrote to inform you that the Scottish Government confirmed on Thursday 30 July that all Scottish schools will reopen full-time in August.

Mrs Budge's letter explained that a number of measures will be in place to reduce the risk of transmission and support the health and safety of all our children, young people and staff on their return to school.

### 2. The 'soft-start' to the new term: the phased return to school of children and young people

In Friday's letter, there was also confirmation that, given the length of time children and young people have been away from school, the fact that many children will be starting out in a new school, and the need to go over important safety procedures and arrangements, the local authority are planning a '**soft-start**' to the first week of the new term.

This means a **gradual and phased return** of children and young people into schools from Tuesday 11 August to Friday 14 August, as opposed to all children returning on the one day. This will support children reconnect with staff, their peers, and the school environment, as a whole, and enable staff to go over important safety procedures and arrangements.

As far as possible, all children and young people will be back in school full-time by Monday 17 August.

The purpose of this letter is to provide further clarification about arrangements for the first week of the new term in our school.

### 3. Arrangements for Baltasound JHS

#### Week 1 (10/08/20)

The table below summarises which year groups will be returning to school during the first week:

	Early Years	Primary	Secondary	Information
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Aug	-	-	-	In Service. No students – staff only.
Tue 11 <sup>th</sup> Aug	-	P1	S1	<b>P1:</b> 8.55am – 1.10pm (collected by parents) <b>S1:</b> 8.55am – 3.40pm (normal transport)
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Aug	-	P1, P2, P6 & P7	S1 & S2	<b>P1:</b> 8.55am – 1.10pm (collected by parents) <b>P2/P6/P7/S1/S2:</b> 8.55am – 3.40pm (normal transport)
Thu 13 <sup>th</sup> Aug	-	P1, P3, P4 & P5	S3 & S4	<b>P1:</b> 8.55am – 1.10pm (collected by parents) <b>P3/P4/P5/S3/S4:</b> 8.55am – 3.40pm (normal transport)
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Aug	-	All students		<b>P1:</b> 8.55am – 1.10pm (collected by parents) <b>Other Years:</b> 8.55am – 2pm (normal transport)

*\*On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August, there will also be opportunity for students with Additional Support Needs to visit the school for a short while, to meet staff and re-familiarise themselves with the school – if parents believe that their child would benefit from this, please contact the school as soon as possible and we will arrange this.*

In this first week, the new P1 class will be mostly in the Early Years setting as part of their transition into school – all Early Years parents should have received a letter at the beginning of the holidays setting out their return to school.

By Friday 14 August, we expect that:

- Learners will have had the opportunity to reconnect with staff and their peers.
- Learners will have experienced some form of transition to their new class/stage
- Learners will be aware of the fire evacuation procedures. All learners understand the health and safety measures that have been put in place and why and can cooperate to make them work.

### **Week 2 (17/08/20)**

The second week will see all of P1 to S4 attending school (with P1 continuing to finish early as communicated previously). The second week will also see our Early Years students from last year coming in for the morning sessions (please see previous EY letters sent out).

### **Week 3 (24/08/20)**

Week 3 will see our new Early Years starts come in – either morning or afternoon session (please see previous EY letters sent out).

### **Week 4 (31/08/20)**

Week 4 will see the Early Years return to the our normal 1140 provision – with one full day session (8.30am to 4pm) for all entitled students – matching the placements requested at registration week.

We appreciate this appears complex, although we are having to work to guidance set out by the Scottish Government and Local Authority. This requires a phased return to school and transition opportunities for the new P1 and S1, which they would normally have had during the previous term.

#### **4. Other School News, Staffing Updates, etc.**

We have several new members of staff joining the BJHS Team this year; Ms Pass is our new Art Teacher, Ms Nicholson is our new Social Studies Teacher, Ms Kiraly is our new Home Economics Teacher and Mrs Fordyce is our new Lower Primary Teacher (maternity cover for Mrs Johnson).



*Ms Nicholson*



*Ms Pass*

#### **5. What happens next?**

We will write again to you at the start of next week with further information about health and safety procedures and arrangements and drop off and pick up arrangements. Further information will also follow this week on school transport and school dining arrangements.



*Mrs Fordyce*



*Ms Kiraly*

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our children and young people back into school. If you have any concerns about your child's resumption of full-time education in August or questions around the content of this letter, please contact me using email or phone.

Yours sincerely

*P. Thomson*

Paul Thomson  
Head Teacher

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