

25 March 2021

**Education and Learning Directorate**  
The Bridge  
Glasgow Road  
Dumfries  
DG2 9AW

Dear Parents/Carers

We are delighted to be, once again, welcoming back our children and young people to their schools to continue with their learning. Our younger learners have been back in school for some weeks now – I hope children have enjoyed being back with their friends, their teachers and support staff. I know our staff teams will plan learning to make sure your child's talents are nurtured and needs met.

As the Deputy First Minister stated on Wednesday, we hope that all children will be back in school full-time from 12 April. This will be a welcome development for pupils, parents and staff. We will make sure that we support young people to move their learning forward from where they are in ways which meet their individual needs. I would like to thank all pupils, parents and staff for continuing to stick to the rules, looking out for each other and working with us to make remote learning work as well as it has.

As we plan for return to school buildings, we continue to promote the measures in place to keep everyone safe including regular cleaning throughout the day and regular asymptomatic testing for COVID for all staff and secondary aged pupils. Face coverings will play a key role in keeping everyone safe in our schools. All secondary pupils will be expected to wear a face covering, unless they are exempt. Information on exemptions and a form for parents to complete is on our website:  
<https://supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/face-covering-exemptions>

We continue to work closely with public health, and we can be confident our schools are well prepared and ready for pupils returning to classrooms.

As we approach spring break, I wish you all a happy holiday knowing that we can look forward to coming together again with a full time return for all pupils in Dumfries & Galloway's schools from 12 April.

Yours sincerely

**Gillian Brydson**  
Director Skills, Education and Learning