



Brunstane Primary School

106 Magdalene Drive
EDINBURGH
EH15 3BE

Chris McMillan, Head Teacher

Wednesday 25th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this finds you well.

Firstly, I would like to thank you all again for your patience and support over the last nine weeks of the new school session. Thanks to your support, the bus runs have gone extremely smoothly and allowed us to get the pupils to and from their host classes quickly and calmly, minimising lost learning time and ensuring safe and happy children.

However, having spoken to many of you at the waiting zones, I know you have all been just as keen as myself and all of the staff team for updates on the Brunstane site and an idea of timelines for our return. I am therefore delighted to let you know that ground surveys around the site have been completed by the Coal Authority and the engineers commissioned by the Council.

As a result of these surveys, the Coal Authority will be carrying out remediation works over the coming weeks in the north east corner of the site and this will be fenced off to allow these works to proceed. Until these works have been completed the tower block cannot be used for teaching. Further updates on when this area of the school can be used again will be provided as and when the Coal Authority provide updates on progress with their works.

However, the wider ground surveys across the site have confirmed that the remainder of the school building and the nursery building can be reused. This is fantastic news and means that we will now be able to begin returning pupils from some of host schools to Brunstane from Monday 30 October.

Therefore, **on Monday 30th October, the pupils who have been attending Towerbank and Prestonfield Primary schools so far this session, will return to Brunstane.** This means that Primary 1, Primary 1/2, Primary 2, Primary 3a, Primary 3b, Primary 4 and Primary 4/5 will be our first classes back and will no longer attend their host schools.

As we do not yet have access to the tower block section of the school, these classes will be housed in the spaces within the school that have traditionally hosted our nursery and our P1-2 classes. Primary 1, 1/2 and 2 will have their classrooms set up in the nursery building, whilst Primary 3 will be set up in the rooms that have traditionally hosted Primary 1 and 2.

Drop off/Collection arrangements for returning pupils

Primary 1, 1/2 and 2 children should be dropped off at the nursery doors on arrival. Primary 3, 4 and 4/5 pupils should line up behind the marked cones in the infant playground. All pupils will be dismissed from the infant playground at the end of the school day.

To ensure safety for the time in which we have some classes back and some continuing to be bussed to host schools, **access to the school will be via the pedestrian gate by the car park only.** We would recommend that families try to walk to school via Magdalene Gardens (which can be accessed via the Brunstane burn footpath and connecting underpasses from other part of the school catchment) and avoid travel along Magdalene Drive as much as possible as the buses will continue to travel along this route. Please avoid coming to school by car if at all possible. The car park will remain closed for visitor car parking as it requires to be used as a fire assembly point and for deliveries (school meals etc). Whilst walking, active travel and public transport would still be heavily recommended, parking at the Range/Costa car park and walking along the pedestrian paths could be a safe method for those who cannot avoid car use.

To further ensure that foot traffic is kept away from the busses, **we will be moving the start and end times of the school day forward by 10 minutes.** This is to ensure that we do not have crowds moving at the same time as buses and to allow families to pick up from both the Brunstane classrooms and the waiting zones where necessary.

Drop off/Collection arrangements for pupils hosted at Oaklands, Castlevue and Moffat EYC

To further minimise wait times, **the Nursey bus to Moffat will be leaving at the earlier time of 9am each morning.** The return time for the Nursery bus remains unchanged.

Timings for the Castlevue busses remain unchanged.

We will ask all Castlevue and Moffat pupils to be dropped off at waiting Zone B from Monday 30th October as this space has been enlarged to provide enough room for these pupils and will avoid standing on wet grass in wet weather.

Our Panda and Penguin classes (ESBs) will continue to get taxi's to and from Oaklands.

Playtime arrangements for returning pupils

Primary 1 and 1/2 classes will use the nursery garden as their playground, Primary 2 will use the infant playground (the space between nursery and the p1/2 classes) and Primary 3-4/5 will use the grass area around the trim trail.

Certain areas of the playground will remain out of access to allow for the Coal Authority work or until the disruption caused by the intrusive ground surveys can be repaired.

School Lunches for returning pupils

Arrangements for hot school lunches for pupils who are returning to Brunstane are in place. If you have ordered a lunch for your child at Prestonfield or Towerbank for next week, this will be available for them at Brunstane.

Breakfast Clubs/After School Clubs/Active Schools

Due to the huge amount of work involved in getting the Brunstane site ready for reopening, we unfortunately will not be able to offer a breakfast club provision at Brunstane, Towerbank or Prestonfield on the week beginning Monday 30th October. We apologise for the inconvenience to families that this causes. Breakfast club at Brunstane will resume on Monday 6th November. Further details on booking arrangements for the Brunstane breakfast club will be issued in due course.

Our After School Club provision from Spring Oscars will continue with staff collecting registered children from the school/coaches on their return.

Active Schools provision will continue unchanged for week beginning Monday 30th October. We will look to start moving some of the clubs back to Brunstane over the coming weeks. Again, there will be more information on this soon.

Absence Reporting/School Enquiries

The school office will reopen at Brunstane on Monday 30th October. The office can be reached on 0131 669 4498. This number should be used to report absences or for **urgent** school enquires. For all other enquires, please email the school admin box at admin@brunstane.edin.sch.uk. We expect a high volume of correspondence in the first weeks back in the building, so we thank you in advance for your patience whilst we continue to adapt our new systems across multiple sites.

Staffing

The staff who have been working with your children at their host schools will continue to do so regardless of whether your child is in the first group to return to Brunstane or not. The one exception to this is Mrs Phillip who has changed roles with us and will now be working alongside Mrs Stewart in the school office. We will issue a full staffing update in the next school newsletter.

I hope the information above is reassuring to our Brunstane families and shows the huge amount of work that has been going on behind the scenes to allow us to begin our return to Brunstane far sooner than expected. I am incredibly grateful for all of the hard work our council colleagues have put in over the October break to make this possible and to our incredible staff team for everything they have done thus far, and for all they are planning to do this week to be ready for our moves. A truly enormous amount of work has been done in a very short period of time to make all of this possible. This is also true for the remediation work that is currently ongoing in the school tower block. Whilst we will not have an exact for this yet, we are currently working on plans to ensure we are ready to bring home our remaining pupils as soon as these are complete.

I will be back in touch with more information by the end of the week. In the meantime, please find a summary of key information in the table below.

Yours sincerely



Chris McMillan
Head Teacher

Key Information

- On Monday 30th October, the pupils who have been attending Towerbank and Prestonfield Primary schools so far this session, will return to Brunstane
(P1, P1/2, P2, P3A, P3B, P4, P4/5)
- We will be moving the start and end times of the school day forward by 10 minutes for the pupils who have returned to Brunstane (P1 and 2 will start at 8:40 and end at 2:50/12:05, P3-4/5 will start at 8:50 and end at 3:05/12:20)
- Primary 1, 1/2 and 2 children should be dropped off at the nursery doors on arrival.
- Primary 3, 4 and 4/5 pupils should line up behind the marked cones in the infant playground. All pupils will be dismissed from the infant playground at the end of the school day.
- The Nursery bus to Moffat will be leaving at the earlier time of **9am** each morning
- All Castlevue and Moffat pupils to be dropped at waiting Zone B from Monday 30th October
- Bus timings for pupils at Castlevue remain unchanged for the time being
- Arrangements for pupils at Oaklands remain unchanged for the time being
- Access to Brunstane will be via the pedestrian gate by the car park only.
- Hot lunches will be available for returning pupils
- Active schools arrangements remain unchanged
- After school club arrangements remain unchanged
- The school office will reopen at Brunstane on Monday 30th October.