



Monday 25th January 2021

Dear parents

Re: Reopening of schools - update for parents (Laxey / Dhoon School Federation)

You will no doubt have heard the Chief Minister's recent announcement in which he outlined a phased approach to lifting all lockdown restrictions on or around the 1st February. Obviously these plans are subject to change in the light of ongoing COVID19 data, but I wanted to get in touch with you as soon as possible to provide an early update on how we envisage the next phase of lockdown will work.

Some sectors have been allowed to return to work as of last Saturday but it is important to note that these workers are **not** classed as essential key workers and their children are not automatically eligible to attend the hub schools. We are therefore expecting that the number of those children attending the hubs at the moment will not increase significantly this week. The hub children will continue to access Rhumsaa or Onchan on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. On Thursday and Friday the hub children (and **not** everyone else) will return to Dhoon / Laxey which will still be subject to social distancing and other restrictions. This will allow the teachers to access their own buildings and make sure that everything is prepared for the following Monday, which is, providing there are no unforeseen changes to the current COVID situation, the day on which we will welcome all children back to their normal schools without any restrictions, physical distancing or face-mask advice. If there are further updates which give additional information to that which is shared here, I will of course be in touch with you as soon as possible.

Our remote learning package will remain in place this week and will close on Friday 29th January.

I have attached the Government statement on this which makes clear that the message to parents remains to keep children at home until schools re-open on the 1st February, even with the modest easing of restrictions which came into play from 1-minute past midnight on Saturday.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. We will still be here for you during these difficult and unprecedented times. We know you will work with us in partnership and hope you will help us in implementing the arrangements above.

Max Kelly
Executive Headteacher

Government News Release - Plans unveiled for the reopening of schools

Monday 25th January 2021

Plans for the reopening of all Isle of Man schools will step up a gear this week.

Schools closed on Thursday 7 January, except for 14 educational hubs maintained for vulnerable children and those of essential workers.

This week, local hubs will be created at all primary schools to deliver a smooth transition ahead of the planned return of all children on Monday 1 February.

Parents allowed to return to work this week due to the easing of restrictions, are reminded that they are not automatically classed as essential workers and are asked to keep their children home wherever possible for the rest of this week as many hubs remain at capacity.

From Thursday 28 January, children who currently attend a primary hub, will be required to return to their usual school where they will continue to be taught in bubbles and be provided with meals.

Dr Alex Allinson MHK, Minister for Education, Sport and Culture, said:

'This smooth transition will enable all staff, where required, to access their own school to prepare classrooms and lessons, observing all Public Health requirements such as social distancing, ready for the reopening of all schools next week.'

'I would like to thank all teachers, parents and pupils for their commitment to distance learning, and look forward to seeing everyone back in classrooms again soon.'

All secondary hubs will continue to operate as they are now until the end of the week.

The Minister continued:

'To enable teachers to focus on preparing for the reopening of all schools, online learning will need to be scaled back this week.'

'This means, from Thursday, no new work will be set, however, pupils are encouraged to use the time to catch up on any outstanding work and to consolidate their lockdown learning before schools restart.'

School bus services will return to normal from Monday 1 February.

Issued By

- Department of Education, Sport and Culture