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North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Your Ref: Our Ref: AMcC/LB

If telephoning please call: 01294 324413

14 December 2021

Dear parent/carers,

CONTINUITY OF LEARNING

As we approach the end of term, I would like to thank you sincerely for your continued support of our schools in the face of the current challenges presented by the ongoing pandemic.

We will continue to make every effort to maintain in-person learning for all children and young people across North Ayrshire, particularly in view of the many disruptions to learning over the last 21 months.

Nevertheless, whilst we will do everything we can to keep our schools and early years settings fully open until the end of term, the rapid progress of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 may present us with particular challenges in situations where large numbers of our pupils and/or staff are required to self-isolate.

As a result, there may be circumstances over the next week and a half whereby individual classes or year groups may be forced to move to remote learning temporarily. Please be assured that remote learning will only be implemented if there is an unavoidable need to do so, because of immediate public health or health and safety concerns, and for as short a time as possible. There are no plans to introduce widespread remote learning across all establishments.

Given that the situation can develop very quickly, it will not always be possible to give much advance notice of any decision to move a class or year group to remote learning, but in such cases, we will ensure we communicate with you as soon as possible, and provide updates on a daily basis during any temporary period of remote learning. We would ask you to consider what your contingency plans would be, should this situation arise in your child's class/year.

A sustained commitment to hand hygiene measures, physical distancing and well-ventilated buildings, as well as regular testing and vaccination where applicable, will help us to get through this period and minimise the impact of the current increase in case numbers across our establishments. Please follow the updated guidance in the letter I issued yesterday jointly with Public Health (a copy of which can be found [here](#)).

I know the ongoing situation is incredibly difficult for everyone and it is certainly not where we hoped we would be by now. Our schools and ELC settings will continue to work hard to ensure we are doing all that we can to maintain safe environments for in-person learning for your child.

When the end of term arrives, I hope you will be able to spend some quality family time together and enjoy a peaceful and healthy Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Andrew McClelland
Head of Service (Education)