



An t-Eilean Sgitheanach

[www.portreehigh.highland.sch.uk](http://www.portreehigh.highland.sch.uk)

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21 August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The first two weeks of school – one a phased return and one a “normal” week have now passed. I have put the word normal in inverted commas because it is a new normal and has been a steep learning curve for all of us.

We have tried to make the school environment as safe as possible. The one-way system seems to be working and the staggered breaks and lunchtimes, with only three year groups in the canteen at a time, means fewer queues and more time for pupils to relax and spend time with their friends. We do know that there wasn't enough hot food on the first Monday and I can only apologise for that. We have now learned from that and have ensured that there is sufficient hot and cold food for all.

We are also encouraging pupils to make use of outdoor spaces. We will review our policy of keeping all pupils in school in a few weeks once the tourist season is over. This has been a difficult decision but I firmly believe that it is safer to keep pupils in school at lunchtime for the moment. They probably don't agree!

Masks are compulsory on the public service buses- Kilmuir, Staffin, Dunvegan, Edinbane, Braes and Struan and on all taxis and feeder buses. We do however strongly recommend that all pupils wear masks while travelling on the buses. Masks are also compulsory on the Raasay ferry. Our mantra now is wear seatbelts and masks!

We have now settled into a good routine as far as classes are concerned and most senior pupils have a full, although sometimes, revised timetable following the SQA results. It is important that pupils realise that we could go back into lockdown at any time and that there are no guarantees that the exams will take place next year. Pupils should be working consistently in order for them to achieve the very best grades they can – either in an exam situation or as this year through estimated grades.

If you wish to contact us about any specific issues or concerns or even just general enquiries, then please e-mail:

G House Miss MacNab: [fiona.macnab@highland.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.macnab@highland.gov.uk)

M House Mr Burrows: [neil.burrows@highland.gov.uk](mailto:neil.burrows@highland.gov.uk)

T House Mrs MacLeod: [dawn.macleod@highland.gov.uk](mailto:dawn.macleod@highland.gov.uk)

Over the next few weeks we will be issuing a revised school calendar. We do not yet have guidance about parents' evenings or issuing reports but we will keep updating you as and when more information comes into school.

Please continue to encourage your child to continue social distancing where possible, especially in queues, seating areas and between classes.

We will also be arranging a Parent Council meeting early in September.

Meanwhile please keep in touch.

Yours faithfully

Catherine A MacDonald  
Head Teacher

**Miss C A MacDonald**  
Head Teacher/Ceannard