



An t-Eilean Sgitheanach

www.portreehigh.highland.sch.uk

5<sup>th</sup> February 2021

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## Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now completed three full weeks of remote learning, and we are delighted that the vast majority of pupils are registering on the online portal each day, and are engaging in the range of face-to-face google meets, and other remote learning opportunities provided by our staff. Each week, we try to share a flavour of some of the work that pupils are taking part in, and I would encourage pupils to send in photos of any creative work that they have completed. With this week being Children's Mental Health Week, we are reminded that Parents, Pupils and staff should ensure a good balance of activities both on and off-screen. We have been fortunate this week to have some dry weather, so I would encourage all young people to wrap up warm and spend some time outdoors this weekend.

On 2 February, an announcement was made in the Scottish Parliament by the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, about remote learning and [the future return to face-to-face learning in schools](#). This message includes the key information that children, young people and their families need to know.

The key points are as follows:

- The remote learning offer, alongside support in-school for vulnerable and key worker children and young people, will continue until Friday 19 February.
- From week beginning 22 February, there will be a partial return to schools as follows:
  - Full time attendance for Early learning and childcare children, and for children in P1-3.
  - Part-time attendance for young people in the Senior Phase who need to attend in order to complete practical work that is necessary for the completion of national qualification courses.
  - Further clarification about future plans for the re-opening of schools will be shared by the Scottish Government on **16 February**.
- There will be a roll-out of testing for some workers in educational settings and pupils in the Senior phase, which will help to ensure that the partial return to school is as safe as possible. This is in line with national guidance.

**It is important to remember that all of our Highland schools will be closed for the long weekend (Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 February are holidays, and Wednesday 17 February is the In-Service Day).** During those days our school buildings will be closed and there will be no provision for vulnerable children and the children of key workers.

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**Miss C A MacDonald**

Head Teacher/Ceannard

We are currently working through these guidelines and are planning for the week beginning 22 February. We will continue to keep parents, carers and families informed. Further updates about free school meals will be issued next week.

Meanwhile, the current remote learning situation continues, with the continued emphasis on following guidance from the Scottish Government to protect the NHS and save lives. Thank you for your patience and support. Please do not feel that you are on your own. As ever if you have any questions or concerns then please get in touch.

Yours faithfully



**Mr A Breen**

Depute Head Teacher/SQA Co-ordinator

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**Miss C A MacDonald**

Head Teacher/Ceannard