Dear Parent / Carer

You will be aware of the significant increase in measures to minimise social contact announced by both UK and Scottish Governments on Monday of this week (16 March) in response to managing the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

I am writing to let you know that the Council has contingency plans in place if the Scottish Government takes the decision to close all schools and early years establishments**.**

**I should stress that no decision has been made to close schools and we continue to operate as normal until we are told otherwise or unless there is a reason to close an individual school or establishment.**

I thought it would be useful and reassuring for Parents / Carers to know we have plans in place to make sure our pupils have every opportunity to continue their education regardless of the circumstances we may face.

These plans include the following:

* We would inform parents as soon as possible of any decision to close a school even if it is short term;
* If a long term closure is required, arrangements would be made by teachers to provide age and stage appropriate activities for children to complete at home with their family;
* Special arrangements would be put in place for pupils in S4 to 6, who are studying for SQA examinations;
* Teachers will make learning at home activities available.

Parents should be aware that we should all be following the advice and guidance provided by the NHS in relation to coronavirus (COVID-19) and this advice is available and updated regularly on the NHS Inform Website:

[www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus](http://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus)

**This includes the requirement for all members of a household to self isolate for 14 days if any member of the household develops symptoms of a fever or a cough;**

**Parents of children with an underlying health condition should contact their GP for advice.**

In order to support Government advice within school we are ensuring the following:

* Hygiene lessons with all classes.
* A continued focus on hand washing.
* Following NHS guidance :
  + Wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel, regularly throughout the day.
  + Catch your cough or sneeze in a tissue, bin it, and wash your hands.
  + Cough / sneeze into your sleeve if you don’t have a tissue.

You can help at home be reinforcing these messages with your child/ren. This is good practice and the best way to prevent the spread of any germs, including coronavirus (COVID-19) and will benefit school communities regardless of the current situation.

You will be aware from our letter to parents/carers on Friday 13 March that in addition to cancelling both overseas and domestic residential school trips we have already implemented measures in schools in relation to precautionary social distancing such as the cancellation of concerts, performances and parents evenings.

We continue to review all activities in school in light of the most up to date guidance and will continue to implement measures to ensure all public health guidance is followed and we are helping protect our community as well as our pupils. Updates will continue to be issued from school to all parents and carers via Group Call, text and email.

Finally, we would like to again thank you for your support and understanding as we implement the guidance in relation to managing coronavirus (COVID-19).