

**People & Partnerships**

Midlothian Council  
Fairfield House  
8 Lothian Road  
Dalkeith  
EH22 3ZG

Executive Director  
Ms Fiona Robertson

Midlothian

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020



Dear Parent / Carer

The announcement by the First Minister that the 2020/21 academic session will commence 11th August 2020, earlier than our planned date of 19 August, has meant that we have had to amend the 2020/21 school session dates. At the start of the new academic session, there will still be 2 staff in-service days, meaning that for those children and young people who will be in school that week, there is a revised start date of 13th August 2020.

Midlothian Council's education service fully understands the impact the lockdown has had on children, young people and their families and is committed to getting it right for every child on their return to school next session. The two in-service days will support this commitment and provide time for staff to plan how best to support your child's learning within a blended learning model, complete mandatory professional learning modules and deal with any matters, such as appeals, or re-coursing requests arising from the certification of SQA qualifications and awards.

A number of new staff will also be joining us in August who will also require time to meet their colleagues, receive information on their new class/classes and familiarise themselves with mandatory health and safety training to ensure their safety and that of our learners.

During the past number of weeks, our staff have been supporting the delivery of home learning, free school meals, offering childcare to key worker families and providing much needed support for our more vulnerable learners. The two in-service days at the start of the new academic session will ensure that we are well-placed to provide your child/ren with a quality blended learning experience.

We know that you and your child/ren will have many questions about the expectations throughout June and the re-opening of schools in August. We are continuing to work through this to make sure our approach takes these next steps carefully and safely. We will provide you with regular communications as and when our Local Phasing Delivery Plan takes shape.

Thank you for your support as we work through these difficult next steps together.

Yours sincerely

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