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Dear Parent/Carer

Yesterday, the First Minister outlined plans for a phased reopening of schools and nurseries for some groups of children and young people in the coming weeks.

I wanted to share the proposals with you and to confirm that they are subject to continued progress on suppressing virus levels in the community. If levels continue to move in the right direction, the First Minister will confirm these plans at the next review of coronavirus protective measures, which is expected to take place on Tuesday 16 February.

From Monday 22 February, it is proposed that:

- children attending nursery and early learning centres can return full time;
- P1 to P3 pupils can return full time;
- a small number of pupils in the senior phase (S4 to S6) will return part time and on a limited basis to allow access to learning that must take place in school; and
- there will be small increases in the existing provision for children and young people with significant additional support needs.

The government provided a high-level outline on a phased reopening of schools and nurseries. Once greater detail is available, we will be able to share what this means in practice for your child, especially regarding the limited return of senior phase pupils and pupils who attend our ASN schools.

The First Minister also announced that home testing kits will be made available for staff and senior phase pupils. Further information regarding how pupils will access and use the kits will be shared when this is available.

The announcement yesterday relates provisionally to a change from week beginning Monday 22 February. In the meantime, the current arrangements in place for all children and young people will continue.

I know this situation is difficult for all parents and carers and once again I can only offer my sincere thanks for your continued support and patience.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Quinn', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Steven Quinn  
Director of Children's Services