

# Staff News: Take 5

Thursday 13 August 2020

Welcome to this week's Take 5, our all new weekly staff update, designed to bring you our latest news summary in a five minute read.

## The route out of the Coronavirus crisis



Please don't be complacent, is a key message from the Scottish Government this week as clusters of cases are identified in Glasgow and Orkney. This follows a further week's extension of the restrictions in Aberdeen following a number of cases in the city.

With more people shopping and eating out, meeting up and travelling, we are also reminded that we are the first line of defence in fighting this virus and to remain vigilant at all times. If you or anyone in your household has symptoms, you must stay at home to self-isolate and follow the NHS guidance.

If you are having visitors to your home, the number of people in each household should be limited to 8 people from a maximum of 3 different households and everyone should maintain the 2 metre physical distancing rule and continue to follow good hygiene. The FACTS guidance must be followed and we are urged to take extra care in pubs and restaurants.

For more information on all the latest guidance visit <https://www.gov.scot/>

For more information on keeping safe and booking a test, visit [www.nhsinform.scot/](http://www.nhsinform.scot/)

## Back to school



Staff in Children's Services and across the council have worked tirelessly through the summer to plan, prepare and make ready our schools and early years centres to ensure they can safely reopen this week.

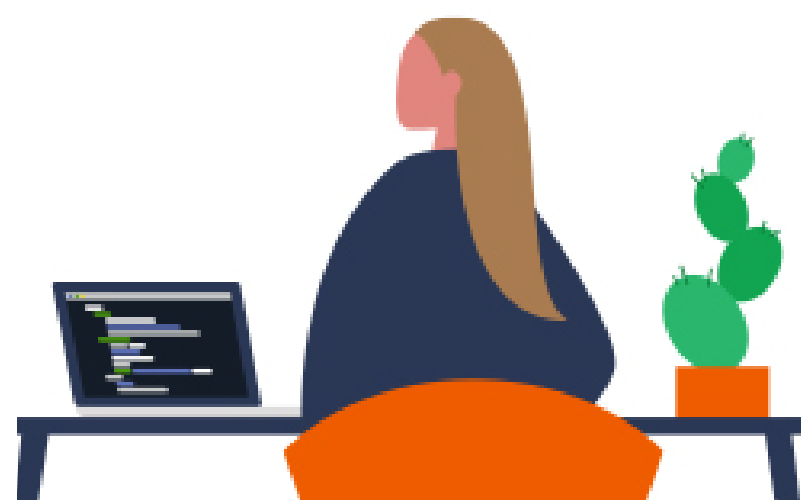
We've been closely following all national guidance to ensure that our staff, children and young people are safe and feel confident while at school or nursery.

Ensuring that our schools are welcoming environments is incredibly important and it was great to see first-hand that pupils are eager to come into school and are ready to take on the new term.

Safety, health and wellbeing will continue to be our single biggest priority.

Please visit [www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/openingschools](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/openingschools) for more details on how we have safely opened our schools and nurseries as well as practical advice and support.

## New working from home guidance



Your health and wellbeing are always our priority and we will continue to do all we can to help you balance your work and home commitments as flexibly as possible.

This handy guide sets out some of the key protocols for staff and managers as well as guidance on the safe use and set up of equipment at home. There's also information on online learning and development courses, as well as key contacts for counselling and wellbeing support.

It is important that everyone working from home reads the guide, follows the advice and completes the Display Screen Equipment (DSE) assessment and iLearn modules.

The guide can be found in the Staff Info section of our website here: [www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/workingfromhomeguide](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/workingfromhomeguide).

## Virtual Pre-Retirement Courses



If you're planning to retire within the next year or so, our virtual pre-retirement courses are certainly worth a look. Offered in collaboration with our partners Affinity Connect, you'll find information on pensions, tax allowances on savings and investments, and tips on what to consider for a financially secure retirement.

There are two sessions to choose from, both available on Microsoft Teams and accessible from any council or personal computer/laptop/tablet/smartphone device. Course dates are Thurs 27 Aug or Mon 5 Oct both from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. To book, email [bookings@affinityconnect.org](mailto:bookings@affinityconnect.org) If you have any questions or would like further information contact [ian.whyte@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:ian.whyte@renfrewshire.gov.uk) or 0141 6184505.

Full course details are available on the intranet at <http://intranet.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/9285/Planning-for-a-Positive-Retirement-Course-Outline>.

## It's a twin thing



Teachers at Bishopton Primary School were seeing double on Wednesday as four sets of twins started in P1.

Twins Ayla and Elliot Clark, Evie and Owen McGuinness, Emily and Freya McNamara and Archie and Charlie Paterson were excited to meet their new classmates in the playground. Almost 2,000 children started P1 this week in Renfrewshire, with 20 twins at schools across the area.

Headteacher Wendy McNaught was delighted to welcome the twins into school on their first day. She said: "It's always an exciting time for the new P1s as they start school and having so many sets of twins will make it an interesting year for pupils and staff alike."



Our Health, Safety and Wellbeing at Work webpage is there to provide you with information and contacts to help you keep well during this time.

Visit: [www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/health-safety-wellbeing](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/health-safety-wellbeing)



Don't forget, we'd love to hear from you!

If you have a story to tell or something interesting to share, get in touch with us at: [internal.communications@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:internal.communications@renfrewshire.gov.uk)