



# ERRINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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January 9, 2022

Dear EES Parents/Guardians,

Welcome Back and Happy New Year! As we return to our usual schedule and full instruction tomorrow, our wish is that 2022 allows us to move back to some form of normalcy and that we can all get back to doing some of the activities that bring us happiness.

Thank you so much for your patience this past week as we worked through some renewed health and safety procedures and planned for the possibility of operational closures. This next phase of this school year will continue to have its ups and downs as we navigate through a global pandemic, but we will get through it together! We have truly appreciated your support, flexibility, ability to adapt to whatever comes our way, and the realistic way you have embraced the ongoing uncertainty with optimism and hope.

We look forward to students returning tomorrow, Monday January 10th. We have prepared a virtual assembly to show in classrooms. This will review the key measures we have in place to keep our school community safe and healthy. Please see the attached link for the list of measures we have put into place as directed by the Ministry of Education:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-safe-schools>

In anticipation of our return to school, we have been engaged in the following preparations:

## **Teacher Contact**

If not already, teachers will be sending an email including details about meeting areas, health and safety protocols, and some information about how their classes might work in the event of an operational closure.

## **Potential Operational Closures**

We will be monitoring attendance closely and will be liaising with Island Health if staff and/or student absences are high in a class, cluster of classes, or the whole school. As per the email sent through the Messenger service today from SD69 Superintendent Peter Jory, a "functional closure" would be directed by our district office in conjunction with Island Health.

If we need to shift to learning from home, teachers have prepared communication measures and online resources to support families in the event that students need to stay home for a duration of time, likely about 5-7 days.

Please make sure you are in touch with your child's teacher to make sure your tech devices at home support the platform the teachers will be using.

### **Morning Meeting Areas**

We will continue to expect students to meet in their designated area before school starts each morning. Your teacher will be reviewing this information with students tomorrow.

### **Recess/Lunch Recess Zones**

We still have a significant amount of snow on our property, which limits play areas. Once the snow melts away, we will reassess the potential need for designated play areas. We will communicate as the need arises.

### **Masks**

As outlined in the Ministry of Education Return-to-School Guidelines, we continue to expect staff and students to wear face coverings while at school and on the school bus. We will review how to properly wear and care for our masks at the virtual assembly tomorrow.

### **Health Check Resource**

We have been very impressed with how well our school community has been with the daily health checks. We appreciate that parents/guardians have kept their children home when they feel sick. This is the first line of defense in keeping our school community safe and healthy. Thank you!

As we return to school tomorrow, please be reminded that parents and caregivers must assess their child(ren) daily for symptoms before they send them to school, using the daily health check tool: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/covid/daily-health-check-english.pdf>. If a child has any symptoms, they must not take the bus or go to school. If they are displaying any symptoms go to the health check link and follow the direction given <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck>

Thank you again for your ongoing support. We look forward to welcoming students back tomorrow. Please contact us at the office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sheila Morrison, Principal  
Errington Elementary School