

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

KEITH PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Road

KEITH

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Dear Friends

After many years of meetings, the time for a start to be made on the new Keith Primary School is now finally upon us, and work will start on the new school as soon as the school holidays start. This is a very exciting time for the school, but will also be a busy time as all of the stuff from the school has to be moved to the new temporary classrooms that will be put up over the summer, so that they will be ready for use when the school returns in August.

All this activity will mean some changes to the normal access to the school, and I want to let you know what these changes are and how they will affect you.

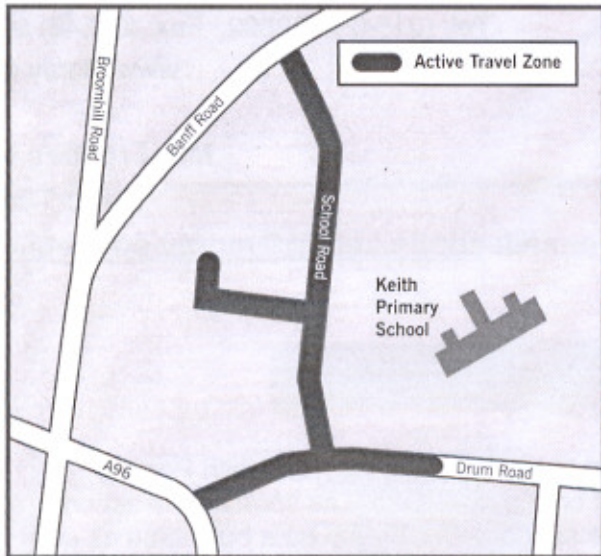
During the summer break, the contractors, Stewart Milne Group, will be taking down the old music rooms, and will put up the temporary classrooms which will be used for teaching P3 to P7 until the new school is completed in October 2011. Nursery and P1 and P2 pupils will be in the junior Primary building just as they always have been, while P3 to P5 will be taught in temporary classrooms that will be put up within the junior Primary School grounds. The ASN base will also be there. P6 and P7 pupils will be taught in separate units that will be put up where the old music rooms now stand. The site of the new school and the new all-weather pitch for the Grammar School will be protected by site fencing, ready for demolition and construction to start.

We have to make some changes to the normal travel arrangements so that pupils travelling to school will be able to do so safely, and you can help us by encouraging your child to walk to school if you live within a reasonable walking distance, or by parking a little away from the school so that your child can complete the journey on foot.

For pupils travelling by School Transport, you will be dropped off at the bus stop on the main A96 Road outside the junior Primary School, and you will be picked up at the end of the day from the car park at the Grammar School. Pupils who get special transport will be taken close to the school and assisted into the building just as normal. Pupils walking to school can still use their usual routes, by Banff Road/School Road, or by School Lane at the bottom of Drum Road. Please note that there will be no access to the Grammar School from the top of Drum Road during the construction works for safety reasons.

The school has helped to develop an Active Travel Zone. The Active Travel Zone is shown on the map, and parents who take their children to school by car are asked not to use these streets to drop off their children and for pick up at the end of the day, but to stop away from that zone. Tesco have kindly allowed us to set up a safe drop-off and pick up zone within their car park, and pupils and parents can safely walk to school from there. I hope that parents will support this initiative which will reduce traffic on School Road, which local residents and pupils will appreciate as the fewer cars there are, the safer everyone will be. Pupils will also benefit by getting a wee bit of exercise!

The map showing the Active Travel Zone is shown:



All of the Primary Pupils will be given a Travel Smart card when they go back to school after summer which rewards them when they walk to school from outside of the Active Travel Zone. There are prizes for when they have collected enough points! A letter to introduce this scheme is also enclosed.

With all of the bits and pieces to be gathered together ready to move into the temporary units, the school staff have been sorting things out for a while, but they need extra time to pack and unpack all the boxes, so we have asked permission from the Scottish Government's Learning Directorate to let us have some Additional Closure Days, when the school will be closed to pupils. There will be 1 day on Friday 2 July to allow staff to pack up boxes before we break for the holiday, and 2 days on Tuesday 17 and Wednesday 18 August after the holiday to allow staff to unpack the boxes and set up for the start of the new term. This means that pupils will not start back to school until Thursday 19 August. I know this is quite short notice but I hope you will agree that it is in a good cause.

I hope that this letter explains what is happening in the next few weeks. I will send out more information from time to time as the work proceeds, and if you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please call me at the school.

Thank you

Frances Irvine
Head Teacher

learning to live
living to learn