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19th March 2021

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to be welcoming back the rest of our pupils P4 to P7 on Monday 22nd March. I know the P1-3 children have enjoyed being back in school. This letter outlines the arrangements for return to school. Many of these arrangements are a continuation of what was in place before Christmas – please take time to reacquaint yourself with these.

P4- P7 – please bring your most recent packs, Guided Reading books/AR books back on Monday.

Entrance and Exit Arrangements

School will be open at the usual time of 8.40 am and children can be dropped off after this time. To ensure that large gatherings of pupils are avoided the children will go straight to their classroom. They do not wait in the playground.

P.1 and P2 will enter through the side door from the playground.

P.3 will enter as usual to the mobile classroom.

P4 and P5 will enter through the door which leads towards the school car park.

P6 and P7 will enter through the main buzzer door.

Afternoon Collection Times (apart from Friday)

Children will exit using the same way they entered. **There is a change to the times from the last two weeks and from before Christmas for P1/2/3 to spread out the collection time as it appears collection times are too close together and thereby maximizing parental numbers at the gates.**



Collection Times – Monday to Thursday	Collection Times – Friday
1.50pm P1/2 & P3 siblings	1.40 pm – P1/2 & siblings
2.00 pm P3 children	1.45 pm - P 4/5 & siblings
2.50 pm P4/5 & older siblings	1.50 pm – P3 & siblings
3.00 pm P6/7 children	1.55 pm – P6
	2.00 pm – P7

Please ensure you have informed the teacher if there is a change to who is collecting your child/children.

P5-P7 - Please speak to your child about their return to home arrangements eg walking, being collected etc.

Preventing the Spread of Covid19

You have a responsibility not to send your child to school if they have any signs of illness.

Key COVID-19 Symptoms (from Department of Education guidance issued 5/3/21)

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature), or;
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual), or;
- a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste.

If any of these symptoms develop while a child is in school, the child will have their temperature taken with a hand held thermometer which does not touch the skin. The results of this/continuing signs of illness may result in the parents being contacted immediately and asked to take the child home from school.

Please contact the child's GP for advice on what to do next or phone 111 or visit the NHS 111 website or visit <http://pha.site/cvtesting>

Contact Details

It is essential that you provide the school with up to date contact details.

Class Bubbles

General Guidance advises increasing separation and decreasing interaction but goes on to say:

“In circumstances in which the guidance on social distancing cannot reasonably be applied, an additional risk mitigation approach should be adopted. This involves organising children and young people into groups (‘protective bubbles’) with consistent membership, which are appropriate to the size of the setting. With the changing public health position this can be extended to treating a full class as a ‘bubble’.” DE Guidance 5/3/21

Therefore classes will remain in their class bubbles for all activities and including dinners/lunch.

Safety measures around our school

- Hand sanitisers can be found at all entrances and exits which everyone must use when entering/leaving the premises. Hand sanitisers are also situated at the entrance to each room.
- Children must wash their hands before they leave home to come to school and again as soon as they enter their classroom. There will also be regular hand washing encouraged in all classes throughout the day
- Appropriate signage is displayed around the school building
- New signage from the Department of Education has been erected.
- Prolonged interactions between classes will be avoided through timetabling of separate breaktimes/lunches and separate areas designated for play for each class.
- Each class has been provided with an Individual Playground Equipment Trunk with their own items.
- There will be careful monitoring to ensure 2m social distancing (where possible) will be kept between adults & adult and child.

Dinners

Dinners will be available from Monday 22nd March. The menu has been posted on the website and Facebook. The cost of dinners remains at £2.60 per day.

In order to decrease the risk of infection through staff handling money, **ALL dinner money must be paid on a Friday only.**

Lunches – please ensure your child has their lunch with them when they arrive at school to prevent unnecessary return trips from parents with lunches.

Please update us as necessary re: allergies or special dietary requirements by Monday 22nd March before 9 am.

Breaktime Snacks/Lunches/Water Bottles

Children **must not** bring anything into school (unless specifically requested to do so by a member of staff) apart from their **healthy break, water bottle and lunch** which should be brought in either **disposable packaging (we strongly advise using paper packaging, as opposed to plastic, to help care for our environment) OR a HARD plastic wipeable lunch box NOT a fabric one.** The children will wipe these down each morning with wipes before placing under their table.

Uniform

Pupils are asked to wear a fresh school uniform every day, if at all possible, to reduce the risk of infection.

PE

The Department of Education state in their latest circular, “It is extremely important that children have regular access to PE within the curriculum on their return to school due to the positive impact that physical exercise can have on young people’s health and wellbeing.”

PE Uniform will be required on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Micheal will be in school on Fridays for our Gaelic sessions.

Schoolbags/Other Items from Home

No schoolbags, pencil cases or stationery should be brought to school. Therefore, for the moment there will be no homework. This will be reviewed after Easter. Spellings may be posted on Seesaw or Google Classroom.

P3

At this time Mrs. Geraldine Fitzpatrick is off school and Mrs. Jane Fitzpatrick will be teaching P3 full-time up until Easter as she has been since Christmas. After Easter until the end of April Mrs Jane Fitzpatrick will be teaching P3 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with Wednesday being taught by Miss Walsh.

P4/5

P4 children will return to be with Miss Walsh next Monday until Easter – this will ensure continuity and a smooth transition back. There will be some activities that they will be liaising with P5 and taught by Mr. Donnan. After Easter P4/5 will be taught by Mr Donnan.

Thank you for your support and co-operation. You will be kept up to date with any changes as our procedures are monitored and reviewed in line with Department of Education guidance.

Yours sincerely

Margaret McConville

