

"To be the best we can be every day, in every way!"

ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



10, Annaghmore Coalisland, Co. Tyrone. N.I. BT71 4QZ

Principal: Anne McGuinness

Web Site: www.stpatricksannaghmore.com

Telephone : (028) 87740661

Email: info@stpatricksps.coalisland.ni.sch.uk

Tuesday 2nd March 2021

Dear P1 - P3 Parent/Guardian,

Thank you again, for your patience and this time, I hope it is "WELCOME BACK!" to all Primary 1 - Primary 3 pupils for good. This communication reflects the latest directives from Minister and DE regarding re-opening of schools to P1 - 3 pupils and to which he has made communications directly to Parents and Carers.

The safety, health and wellbeing of every child and member of staff will always be at the forefront of every decision taken; school reopening is not a return to normal and all restrictions and procedures previously in place before Christmas remain in place now.

Restrictions on arrival and at school gates:

- No pupil will access the school before staff go to the gate to collect the first Bubbles at 9:00am.

9:00am P1 - Mrs McFall

9:10am P1 - Mrs Quinn

9:20am P2 - Miss McGahey

9:30am P3 - Mrs Nugent

- All parents/carers **must remain off the school premises** at drop off and pick up times **and do not meet with other adults at the gates.**
- Parents must follow the drop off/pick up times set in order to reduce the volume of adults at the school gates at all times; please, park a little further from the school and walk to the gates to avoid congestion.

Family Groups:- to facilitate a single drop-off

- Family groups can arrive together at the earliest time set for one of the children and each child will go directly to their own classroom/bubble and remain there under adult supervision until their class arrive;

P3 & P2 pupils in family groups should enter via front doors and go straight to their room.

We cannot facilitate family pick-ups at this time and cannot 'hold on to' children.

Adults/Parents/Carers:-

- It is essential that **all parents/carers** dropping children off at school remain at the school gates and **follow social distancing regulations of 2m** between each family and all adults should **wear a mask/face covering**.
- **DO NOT** engage staff in any enquiries/concerns/conversation beyond social greetings at the gates at drop-off or pick-up times as these need to be speedy hand-over of children allowing for the next class/bubble to come along.

Meetings will be arranged on request and by appointment only to ensure they can be accommodated safely and following regulation guidelines that will protect the safety of all adults and pupils.

Please ring into the office from your car and a meeting will be arranged for after 3:00pm in the school hall to allow for all social distancing and sanitizing procedures to be properly followed.

Alternatively, the teacher can arrange to ring you back when free to do so.

These arrangements need cooperation from all parents about not entering school premises in the morning and respecting arrival times for your child. The same cooperation is required for

Home Times:-

P1 Mre McFall -1:20pm.

P1 Mrs Quinn - 1:30pm

P2: 1:40pm

P3: 1:50pm

Pupils from each class/'bubble' will be brought out to you at the time given. Please ensure you are on time to avoid congestion of traffic outside the school; please do not hold conversations at the school gates as we need to avoid adults and groups mixing as much as possible to protect us all.

Once again, please phone the school to speak to staff if you have any issues or concerns and we will return your call as soon as we are able to do so.

We will keep these arrangements under constant review when in place and as we all, children, parents and staff become used to following them; as soon as changes can be made to reduce time intervals, we will inform you immediately.

Lunches and dinners.

Dinners:

Dinner service will restart on Monday 8th March.

- To protect the class bubbles, dinners will be on a staggered basis for each class with play time allocated on yard to avoid mixing of bubbles.
- All children entitled to Free School Meals and those who wish to buy it will be catered for. At present, dinner remains at £2:60 per child per day for those paying; please **send in dinner money at the start of each week for the week** so it can reduce all money handling to a minimum and assist planning for numbers.

Lunches:

- **Children taking their own lunch to school need to bring it in a clear plastic bag that will be binned when they have eaten it.**
- All pupils need **to bring disposable water bottles** with them to school; this should be still water only and the bottle cannot be refilled in school and will **be binned when finished with daily.**
- Please send in break in clear plastic bag that will be binned when they have eaten break.
- **HEALTHY BREAKS ONLY** as we continue to promote Healthy Break Initiative.

Children who are sick or who become sick in school:

DE Guidance states that we should 'isolate' any child who becomes unwell or who is showing symptoms of Coronavirus.

St Patrick's PS has designated the current Staff Room as a safe and comfortable location for any child who is unwell and they will be supervised and taken care of by a member of staff at all times until a parent/carer can come to collect them.

It is very important that we work together on this as we need any child who is ill to go home as soon as possible. Please ensure we have a working mobile contact number for each child.

There is not a day goes by that someone must go home ill - it will happen, but we will make your child as comfortable as we can until you arrive. Please phone into the school when you are outside in the car and remain there, and we will take your child out to you.

Please ensure if your child has been ill/sick the previous night or that morning, that you do not bring them to school but seek alternative child- minding arrangements.

We cannot take the chance of 'waiting to see how they get on.'

Under current guidance, if any pupil shows signs of COVID19 eg new persistent cough, high temperature, change in taste/smell they and **all family members at the school will be sent home** and need to remain there;

The following is the advice direct from DE: -

" Pupils and staff who exhibit any symptoms associated with COVID-19 should not attend school. The N.I. Executive has rolled out a Test and Trace and Protect strategy designed to control the spread of COVID-19 and symptomatic staff are expected to follow the advice and obtain a test for COVID-19.

Where an individual has had a negative result, it is important to still apply caution. If everyone with symptoms who was tested in their household receive a negative result, the pupil or member of staff can return to work providing they are well enough and have not had a fever for 48 hours.

Anyone who tests positive will be contacted by the Contact Tracing Service in the Public Health Agency, and will need to share information about their recent interactions. This could include household members, people with whom you have been in direct contact, or been within 2 metres for more than 15 minutes. Passing in corridors and short periods of contact does not therefore present a significant risk to staff or pupils. All household members should follow PHA isolation guidance which currently requires everyone in the house to stay at home. Isolation guidance will then be provided that is context specific and may result in friendship groups, regular contacts and potentially an entire class or 'bubble' being instructed to self-isolate at home.

The guidance is as follows:

- *if you have symptoms of coronavirus or a positive test, you will need to stay at home for at least 10 days;*

- if you live with someone who has symptoms or a positive test, you will need to stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person in the home started having symptoms;
- however, if you develop symptoms during this 14-day period, you will need to self-check in accordance with Test and Trace guidance and stay at home for 10 days from the day your symptoms started (regardless of what day you are on in the original 14-day period);
- 10 days after your symptoms started, if you do not have a high temperature, you do not need to continue to self-isolate. If you still have a high temperature, keep self-isolating until your temperature returns to normal. You do not need to self-isolate if you just have a cough after 10 days, as a cough can last for several weeks after the infection has gone;
- if you have symptoms and live with someone who is 70 or over, has a long-term condition, is pregnant or has a weakened immune system, try to find somewhere else they can stay for the 14-day isolation period;
- it is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.
- Pupils can return to school when they have completed the necessary period of isolation as advised by the Test, Trace and Protect service. This will help contain any potential transmission to those pupils and will also assist in protecting the wider community. COVID-19: Information for the public."

Curriculum:

We are fully aware of the concerns regarding children's welfare and learning 'gap' created due to lockdown. It will be our priority initially, to make school a welcoming and safe place where children want to be and feel cared for.

We will address as a priority, how they feel and think about the world they are in now and seek to reassure them that we can make school a 'safe' place in every way possible; teaching and establishing a good hand hygiene routine across all classes/'bubbles' in the school will be on-going; 20 second rule and how to properly wash their hands will reinforce the excellent routines you will have established at home already.

Good respiratory hygiene will also be a priority and an on-going focus in every group across the school; "Catch it! Bin it! Kill it" will be the mantra along side the use of tissues to cover

nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing and in the absence of a tissue, use of the crook of the arm to safely cough into.

Above all, we recognise that one metre distancing between children physically will challenge them all but we will calmly, quietly and gently keep consistently reminding them of the need to maintain it.

At this stage, regulations do not recommend children wearing face masks/coverings in school simply because they will not adhere to their correct use - even adults find this VERY challenging indeed. ALL adults visiting will be expected to wear masks.

School Uniforms

Coronavirus can land on fabrics and remain for some time. We encourage that all children, therefore, should wear clean uniform or fresh clothes each day if possible.

School Bags, pencil cases, pens, pencils etc.

Nothing is to be brought into school (except healthy break, bottle of water in disposable bottle and lunch in clear bags that will be binned after use.) School will provide all stationery for each child that will not be shared for use in school only.

ALL toys and footballs are to be left at home for use there.

Home Learning:

This will be online via website as it has been and no packs will be provided for P1 - P3 regarding Home work.

Our priority for the first week will be

- ✚ welcoming the children back; re-introducing the hand and respiratory routines in every classroom;
- ✚ re-introducing and practicing the 'rules' for operating as individual bubbles eg 'Stand here' markers, Stop and Wait markers; putting hand up for adult attention and remaining in seat until adult attends them;
- ✚ re-introducing the social distancing from staff (2meter markers in classroom) and keeping distance from each other avoiding physical contact;

- ✚ re-introducing hand hygiene measures - washing on arrival, before/after break and dinner/lunch; after going to toilet all for 20 seconds and following proper hand washing procedures which will be taught across the school;
- ✚ reminding them about keeping hands away from face and fingers out of mouth at all times
- ✚ reminding them to use only resources provided for them alone at all times; (no sharing - wow!!)
- ✚ making sure that they know which door and path to follow when arriving to school and leaving again;
- ✚ reminding them about lining up as a bubble with social distancing between each child

This will take some readjusting to for everyone again but we must get it in place to protect us all in school.

If, and when, regulations change regarding schools in line with Public Health, you will be informed immediately whatever changes that may bring about for our school.

Please remember, phone into the school to arrange a call back from teachers when class is over or to make an appointment to meet. We must ensure only authorised personnel are entering the school to protect our bubbles. This is the only way to keep the school open for children and avoid transmission of the virus to them and staff.

Please, do not hesitate to contact with suggestions or any concerns you may have and I will endeavour to respond with the best knowledge and information available to me at this time. COVID19 has made an impact on all our lives that will remain with us for a long time to come.

Take care, keep safe and well,

With very best wishes,

A McGuinness

Anne McGuinness (Principal)