

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

ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you again, for your patience. This communication reflects the latest directives from Minister and DE regarding re-opening of schools and to which he has made communications directly to Parents and Carers through his letter yesterday as placed on our school website.

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 before lock down happened.

- **Week beginning Monday 22nd March 2021 school will reopen for ALL**

all P7 pupils (in Mobile Unit B with pupils having own access/exit to room & own toilets)

all P6 pupils using Mobile Unit A (separate pupil access and own toilets)

all P5 in the Bottom Mobile Unit (separate pupil access and own toilets)

all P4 with Mr Hanna Mobile Unit B (separate pupil access and own toilets)

all P3 with Mrs Nugent in her own room (separate access and toilets).

all P2 (using classroom and Nurture Room for small 'break-out' groups across the day for structured play and activity-based learning daily for each P2 pupil)

all P1 pupils in Foundation Stage Area

Restrictions:

- No pupil will access the school before staff go to the gate to collect the first Bubbles at 9:00am.
- All parents/carers **must remain off the school premises** at drop off and pick up times.
- 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 try to park a little further from the school and walk to the gates to avoid congestion.
- ALL adults must wear a mask when getting out at the school.

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;

P6 & P7 pupils in family groups should only go to their rooms following the path around the outside of the school kitchen into the back yard;

P5 pupils in family groups should follow the footpath towards the Computer suite which will be their rooms.

P4 pupils in family groups should follow the path through the front yard towards the Computer suite and proceed to the back door to go upstairs in main building to their room;

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.

- Individual pupils should only arrive at the designated time for their class bubble to come in to class.

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.

Buses:

Translink and Board Buses should resume service. Parents are asked to check this with each provider. There will be NO BOARD bus for P1 - 3.

- Any child travelling on either bus is advised to wear a face covering and parents are asked to speak to your child regarding the correct way to put on, take off and dispose of such safely.
- Hand hygiene will be essential when they arrive into school. Once again, depending on their class, children go to their class bubble following the directions above. **ONLY P1 - P2 pupils will enter via front doors.**

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.

Arrival Times for start of school day:-

It is our sole intention to open our school and keep it open and when we all play our part, we will ensure this will be the case.

P1: Mrs Mc Fall - 9:00am

P1: Mrs Quinn - 9:10am

P2: Miss McGahey - 9:20am

P3: Mrs Nugent - 9:30am

P4: Master Hanna - 9:30am

P5: Mrs Kenwell - 9:00am

P6: Mrs Bradley - 9:10am

P7: Miss McVeigh - 9:20am

P1 – P3 classes will use top pedestrian gate and follow staff along path into Main Entrance.

P4 – P7 will use lower pedestrian gate and follow staff along the path towards the bottom of the front yard.

This arrangement needs 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 Mrs McFall: 1:20pm.

P1 Mrs Quinn: 1:30pm

P2: 1:40pm

P3: 2:00pm

P4: 2:20pm

P5: 2:40pm

P6: 2:50pm

P7: 3:00pm

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 22nd 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 in each class. 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.
- **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."

As yet, we have no confirmed information regarding rapid testing in the school and await further information from Minister Weir and Health Authorities.

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:

We will advise on how this will be done after we reopen.

Our priority will be

- 🌈 welcoming the P4 - P7 children back; re-introducing the new 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;
- ✚ social distancing from staff (2meter markers in classroom) and keeping distance from each other avoiding physical contact;
- ✚ 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;
- ✚ keeping hands away from face and fingers out of mouth at all times
- ✚ 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;
- ✚ lining up as a bubble with social distancing between each child

This will take some re-adjusting to for everyone but we must get it back 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.
- Meetings can be arranged but only after 3:00pm when all children have left. We will have all meeting in the school hall, socially distanced and all adults **MUST** wear a mask and follow the COVID19 Visitor's Policy Procedures as attached.
- If your child arrives late, please ring into the school from the car and a member of staff will come out to let them in.
- If you are collecting a child early for any reason, please ring into the office in advance and arrange for them to be brought out to you at the gate.

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 McQuinness

Covid-19 - Visitor Information.

Risk assessments have been completed for all visitors and the following measures have been put in place:

- All meetings will take place outside school hours and after 3:15pm by appointment only. All meetings will be held in Assembly Hall and regular cleaning system is in place for all areas/rooms with enhanced cleaning where necessary; no visitors will enter the main building.
- Assemble Hall is laid out to ensure social distancing is observed, given the number of attendees and access to Hall is via the back entrance on rear yard. The hall will be well ventilated and all visitors are asked to dress accordingly for cooler temperatures inside the building.
- On arrival to the school, all visitors must ring into the school office and wait in their car until a staff member goes out and escorts you to the entrance of the Assembly Hall located at the rear of the school;
- Hand sanitiser is available at Hall Entrance and positioned in any area where washing facilities are not readily available; please sanitise as you enter and leave the hall.
- COVID19 Register must be signed and completed for each visitor as they enter and signed again on leaving the building by the same route.
- ALL adults must wear a face covering at all times inside the building including during attendance at meetings;
- All attendees are asked to provide their own water bottle and stationery including pens and note paper for recording; please remove all items brought in and take with you when you leave the building.

ALL visitors are reminded that if they have a high temperature, a new continuous cough, a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste, or feel unwell, they should not attend any meeting at the school.