



'Happy to Learn'

24th August 2021

Return to School – August 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Following the release of the Department of Education's 'Coronavirus (Covid 19): Guidance for Schools and Education Setting Northern Ireland', please see below advice and timetable for the new school term. This is designed to be a working document and is based upon the guidance as it has been presented to date. **All of the below will be reviewed on a weekly basis. Families will be informed of any changes to these arrangements as necessary.**

Start Dates

- Mrs McCracken & Miss Edgar will hold Induction Meetings with parents of incoming Nursery & P1 pupils on Thursday 26th, Friday 27th & Tuesday 31st;
- P2 – P6 pupils will return to school on 27th August 2021. Pupils will be dismissed on the 27th at lunch time with staggered start & dismissal times (entrance & collection points detailed in School Day table below):
 - P2 – 8.50am - 11.45am
 - P3 – 8.55am - 11.50am
 - P4 – 8.50am - 12.10pm
 - P5 – 8.50am - 12.15pm
 - P6 – 8.45am - 12.05pm
 - P7 – 8.45am – 12.00pm
- From 31st August **all pupils from P2 – P7 will return to the classroom for a full day;**
- Lunches are not available on Tuesday 31st August for pupils, but will commence on Wednesday 1st September. **Please send a packed lunch in with your child on this day.**

The School Day

- All in school procedures from last year will remain in place for the first 2 weeks of term. This is to allow for us as a school to assess our current Covid procedures and monitor the impact on pupil learning and the health & safety of our school community;
- Each class will have staggered arrival & dismissal times (See below);
- Instructions on drop off & collection points are below;
- Pupils should proceed directly to their classroom via their designated entrance (see below);
- Pupils will continue to be taught in a 'class bubble' as per last academic year;
- Break times will be staggered with teachers remaining with their class and the playgrounds being divided accordingly;
- Lunch times will be staggered with outside play time between 12.00pm – 1.00pm.

School Day

Class	Entrance	Start time	End time	Collected from
P7	Rear Playground Door	8.45am	2.45pm	Lower Car Park
P6	Rear Playground Door	8.45am	2.45pm	Lower Car Park

P5	Main Entrance	8.50am	2.50pm	Lower Car Park
P4	Nursery Entrance	8.50am	2.50pm	Lower Car Park
P3	Main Entrance	8.55am	1.55pm	Lower Car Park
P2	Main Entrance	8.50am	1.45pm	Lower Car Park
PI New (first 2 weeks)	Nursery Entrance	9.00am	12.00pm	Lower Car Park

PI and Nursery will get further details at their induction meeting.

The Curriculum

- We aim to continue to provide the best learning and teaching to your child(ren) even within these unusual times. Alongside the delivery of the curriculum we will also be implementing a comprehensive support system for our pupils to ensure they feel safe and happy to learn. This will involve a portion of everyday focusing on mental wellbeing and open discussions between teachers, learning assistants and pupils.
- All pupils will continue to be catered for and supported according to their ability level. Learning support will take place as normal within the school setting, relevant families will receive further information concerning how and when this will take place. At this stage, we are hopeful that support from external agencies will be available.
- As per last year, due to the need to make the greatest use of space within the classrooms and to minimise the risks to our pupils, any furniture that can be removed from a classroom will be (class libraries, soft furnishings etc.). As best as possible, pupils will be required to remain at their desks whilst in the classroom.
- As we are blessed with such extensive school grounds, when possible, pupil learning will take place outside to allow our children the chance to enjoy the fresh air and for their health and wellbeing.
- As per last year, there will be no Shared Education activities this academic year.
- It is our intention to commence After School Clubs & swimming as soon as we have completed all necessary risk assessments and contacted relevant coaches.
- Music tuition tutors will be in touch with families regarding lessons.
- We would ask parents to send in a pair of trainers only with their child (these will be required to stay in school) to allow for spontaneous PE. Pupils must be able to tie their own laces. Pupils will not be required to change into full PE kit.

Additional Information

- Please remember to send your child to school with all of the classroom resources, correct school uniform etc. detailed in the attachments to their report sent home in June;
- Only P7 children sitting entrance exams will receive written homework in the first 2 weeks of term;
- In line with our Safeguarding Policy, no adults will be admitted to school without a prior appointment;
- As per last year, any adults coming into the school building must wear a mask and use hand sanitizer provided;

- Any parent wishing to speak to a class teacher should use Seesaw or telephone the school to arrange a time;
- Masks are no longer required to be worn on school grounds but please remember social distancing rules whilst leaving dropping off and collecting children;
- **PLEASE REMEMBER IF YOUR CHILD EXHIBITS ANY SYMPTOMS OF COVID 19 THEY MUST NOT BE SENT TO SCHOOL. PLEASE FOLLOW PHA GUIDELINES.**

These guidelines are not exhaustive and are open to change throughout the new school term but I hope they provide some clarity as to how we aim to have our pupils return safely to full time schooling. We appreciated your understanding in this matter.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming you all back to school to, what we hope, will be a more *normal* school year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M. Moore

Principal

Principal: Mr M. Moore

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