

**Return to School**

**August 2020**

Dear Parent/Carer

The primary school will reopen to **P7 pupils** on **Monday 24th August 2020**, from 9am-1pm.

P2-6 will commence school on Wednesday 26th August 2020 as planned for induction from 9am-1pm

*Pupils in the Nursery Unit and P1 should follow the guidance provided by Mrs Baines and Mrs Bradshaw.*

**Protecting the School Community:**

**Key Principles**

The school will promote:

* Social distancing (currently 1 metre where appropriate between children and two metres between children and adults)
* Good hand hygiene – the regular washing of hands using soap and water or the use of hand gels and
* “Catch it… Bin It… Kill It,” PHA guidance

In support of the above, the children should bring individual hand gels and tissues to school for personal use only.The school will provide sanitisation stations in communal areas and regular checks of toilets will be carried out.

**Organisation of classes**

Following on from an announcement by the Department of Education on Thursday 6th August, use will be made of **class “bubbles.” Children will be expected to remain in their class bubble throughout the school day.**

Regrettably, it will not be possible to organise for communal activities; School assemblies, team sports, choirs and out of school activities/trips requiring school transport e.g. swimming, until advised otherwise.

The **After-School programme** will also be suspended until further notice. This will be reviewed on receipt of updated guidance from EA/DE.

**What to bring to school:**

Children should continue to wear **full school uniform which includes black shoes.**

**Schoolbags will not** be required for now.

P4-7 pupils should come prepared for school on the first day with **a pencil case which will remain in school.** This will be kept in an individual wipe-clean plastic resource box in school.

Children should bring a coat to school each day.

Individual teachers may require other items (see information on school website and FB page).

**School Meals/Snack**

The children should bring **a healthy break** for induction week.

From 1st September, pupils will be able to avail of a hot school dinner and/or a healthy snack from the school meals kitchen.

Children opting for packed lunches should bring them in a lunchbox or bag which can be easily wiped clean. Please ensure you send food that can be managed by your child e.g. opened or peeled by themselves and any cutlery needed.

Children should bring their **own water bottles** as the communal water cooler will not be available.

A decision on the availability of **school milk** has still to be taken.

**N.B. Products containing nuts or traces of nuts are not permitted in school.**

If you believe that your child/ren **qualify for free school meals,** then please apply online with the Education Authority as follows:

[www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals](http://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals)

You can also apply for financial help with school uniform using the same online form.

Break and lunch times will be staggered with pupils having eating and outside time in their class bubbles.

**The School Day:**

**Families whose surnames beginning A to M,** should try to arrive at school between **8.45am and 8.55am.**

**Families with surnames beginning with N to Z** should try to arrive between **9.00am and 9.10am**.

On arrival the pupils should proceed into school by the main door and proceed to their classroom. Where possible, we aim to limit the footfall of people entering our school grounds but if you must accompany your child then you must adhere to social distancing guidelines whilst in the school playground. Staggered arrival and pick up times are being introduced to limit interactions and avoid gatherings at the school gates.

We would encourage children to walk/cycle to school where it is safe and practical to do so.

Parents/guardians **will** **not be permitted into the school buildings unless by prior appointment** or in an emergency only. Use of PPE may be required.

**Leaving school**

The children will leave school by the main door at staggered intervals and wait in class zones for pick up in the playground at the following times:

P2 – 1.45pm P5 – 2.50pm

P3 – 1.55pm P6/7 – 3pm

P4 – 2.45pm

**Use of PPE**

1. **In the classroom/nursery unit.**

Where practicable, adults will maintain two metres distance from pupils. (DE/PHA guidance). This is very unlikely to be practicable with \*younger children. Whilst not currently mandatory, staff may choose to wear either a visor or facemask depending on the age of pupils.

1. **In an emergency/first aid.**

Staff will wear a facemask, a visor, gloves and disposable apron where the two metre rule cannot be observed.

1. **Meeting with parents/other adults.**

Use of facemasks will be encouraged in an indoor/enclosed space.

The school and nursery unit has produced risk assessments and developed a range of Safeguarding policies to include Child Protection, intimate Care and the Use of Reasonable Force. These will be reviewed, taking account of the latest DE/PHA guidance

**Contacting the School.**

The school can be contacted in the following ways:

Telephone: 028 43722559

Email: jmccann993@c2kni.net; cspiers638@c2kni.net

Google classroom and Class Dojo (individual teachers)

From 1st September 2020 we will be using the School Money app to collect all school monies. NPS will be starting the journey to becoming a cashless school. By using the app, you are reducing the need to visit the school unnecessarily. More information will follow this week on how to download and use the app.

We are so much looking forward to having the children return to both the school and nursery unit. Thank you for your patience and continued cooperation as we adapt to these new and challenging circumstances.