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23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021

### **School Restart Information**

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you have had a restful summer and are looking forward to the new term. The whole school community are excited to see the children returning. The updated guidance from the Department of Education was released on Thursday evening. The majority of the guidance allows school to continue with the many safe practices that we had in place during the summer term.

The need for schools to continue to support effective contact tracing means that schools are being asked to maintain a cautious approach that still seeks to maximise the time where pupils are within a consistent group of pupils.

We will continue to endeavour to implement as much social distancing as is practical where physical capacity and curriculum permit. Public health guidance with respect to social distancing of 2 metres remains in place between adults and as far as possible between adults and pupils. Social distancing guidance applies across all areas of the school site, both indoors and outdoors.

Schools have been told they should consider how they can avoid parents congregating at school gates at the start and the end of the school day. We ask that all adults wear masks when within the school grounds and inside the building.

**Please note that anyone displaying any of the key COVID-19 symptoms must not attend school. They should stay at home and book a test through the PHA website, keeping the school updated at all times.**

### **School Timings**

School restarts for all pupils on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August.

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August are all half days (12pm finish).

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August is a Bank Holiday and the school is closed.

From Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September, full time learning resumes. School dinners and school break will also resume. The school timings for 2021/22 are outlined below:

**8.45am** - Doors open – Pupils should arrive and make their way to class where they will be supervised

**9am** - Lessons begin

**1.50pm** - Home time for P1, P2 and P3

**2.50pm** - Home time for P4, P5, P6 and P7

### **Arrangements at Arrival and Pick Up Times**

- Please do not park in front of the green gates – these are required for EA School Transport vehicles
- Children should approach the main pedestrian gate for safe handover
- We respectfully request that only staff and pupils move beyond the school gates - with the exception of new P1 and our LSC parents who will be permitted to enter during their child's first two weeks
- Parents collecting younger children at 1.50pm are encouraged to wait at the green gates but must follow social distancing
- Parents collecting children at 2.50pm should wait by their car and staff will see children out of the playground

### **School Bags**

The Department of Education have advised that children may bring school bags and pencil cases into school.

### **Lunch Boxes**

Children are allowed to bring lunch boxes and water bottles into school. We would advise that the lunch boxes can be easily cleaned.

### **PE**

Our older pupils (P4-P7) can wear their PE kit into school on days that they have PE.

### **Breakfast Club**

We plan to have Breakfast Club up and running by Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. Further information will follow.

### **Kids' Club/P2 and P3 After School Care**

We plan to have Kids' Club up and running later in September. Further information will follow.

Should there be demand for P1 Kids' Club, we will facilitate this later in the school year.

### **School Dinners**

School dinners (£2.60 per day) will resume from Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September for all children each day in the school dining centre. We will be operating two sittings with a minimum of 2 metres of space between each class. Children will continue to play outside in delegated areas with those from their own class.

### **Milk**

Milk will resume on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. We will send more details in due course.

### **School Uniform**

All children are to be in full school uniform as usual. Plain black shoes must be worn by all children. **It is very important that your child's name is on all items of school uniform and the PE kit.**

### **Hygiene**

Handwashing and good hygiene habits will be paramount to continue minimising the risk for everyone. Children will wash their hands as soon as they arrive, before eating, before going home and before using any shared equipment. The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' rule will also be reinforced.

### **Communication Between Home and School**

Please ensure that we have the correct mobile numbers and e mail addresses. I would also recommend that you download the Schools NI app on to your phone and this will ensure that you are subscribed to our website.

Many thanks for your continued support. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Beacom

**Principal**