

**St. Colmcille's Primary School**

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10th August 2020

Dear Parents,

**School Reopening Update**

Following the Minister for Education’s announcement on 6th August, the reopening schedule outlined in correspondence dated 21st July 2020 can now be confirmed. To recap:

**Year 7**

The 2020-21 academic year will commence for all Year 7 pupils on Monday 17th August 2020. The children will be in school from 8.15am to 2.55pm from 17th August to 28th August. From the 1st September pick up times will be staggered, please see below for details.

**Year 1**

Induction meetings for pupils and parents take place from Tuesday 18th August until Friday 21st August from 9.30am-10.30am.

**Years 2-6**

These classes will return to school from Tuesday 25th to Friday 28th August for two familiarisation mornings.

**All children will return to school full time from Tuesday 1st September 2020.** However, this does not mean a return to school as ‘normal’. There will be significant changes to how the school operates to ensure the safety of all our school community.

**Covid-19 Symptoms**

If your child(ren) or anyone in your household are displaying any of the symptoms of Covid-19, they should stay at home and follow the latest Public Health advice- **this is vital to stop the spread of the virus throughout our school community.**

If a child presents as unwell during the school day, they will be taken to an isolation room and parents/guardians will be contacted to collect them immediately.

**Social Distancing**

Foundation Stage: Due to the interactive and practical nature of the curriculum and in light of DE guidance, we will not be expecting FS pupils to socially distance as this could be confusing and upsetting for children at this developmental stage.

Key Stage 1 & 2: Social distancing requirements between all pupils has been relaxed from a specific distance to the best spacing that can be achieved but will remain in place between adults and, as far as possible between adults and pupils. We will encourage as much social distancing as is practical and where physical capacity and curriculum delivery permit.

**Protective Bubbles**

Protective bubbles will be used to segment pupils into consistent class groupings. Children will go straight to their classroom on arrival each morning using their designated entrance and will remain with their class throughout the school day. There will be limited movement around the school and communal resources areas, the computer suite and the assembly hall will not be used.

**Staggered Drop Off and Pick Up**

To maximise social distancing and the integrity of the protective bubbles drop off and pick up times will have to be staggered. There will be **one drop off and pick up time per family** to reduce congestion around the school. Drop off and pick up times will be as per the timetable below (this timetable comes into effect from 1st September 2020). Please make every effort to follow this timetable as it is vital that children can enter and leave the building in a safe and controlled manner.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Drop Off |  | Pick Up |
| 8.15am | Yrs 6& 7(and younger siblings) |  | 2.00pm | Yr 1\* & Yr 2(and older siblings) |
| 8.30am | Yrs 4 & 5(and younger siblings) |  | 2.20pm | Yr 3 & Yr 4(and older siblings) |
| 8.45am | Yrs 2 & 3(and younger siblings) |  | 2.40pm | Yr 5 & Yr 6(and older siblings) |
| 9.00 am | Yr 1 |  | 2.55pm | Yr 7 |

*\*Year 1 will be picked up at 12noon until Friday 25th September 2020, any older siblings will remain in school until it is their year groups pick up time during this period.*

Lessons will start at 8.55am for Years 2-7 and 9.15am for Year 1. Lessons will finish for all year groups at 2.00pm. Children will then be supervised by a member of staff until it is their allocated pick up time.

**Personal Hygiene**

Regular Handwashing: Children will be requested by staff to wash their hands regularly throughout the school day. Please continue to practise with your child(ren) the washing of hands for at least 20 seconds using liquid soap and water and drying them thoroughly.

Sanitising Stations: Hand sanitising stations will be set up in each classroom and children will be encouraged to use hand sanitiser throughout the day.

Respiratory hygiene: A plentiful supply of tissues will be available in each classroom to enable the following of the ‘Catch it, Bin it, Kill it’ approach to coughs and sneezes. I would encourage all parents to practise this approach with your child(ren) before their return to school. It would also be beneficial if each child carried a pocket size pack of tissues with them on a daily basis.

**Enhanced Cleaning**

Additional cleaning of frequently touched surfaces such as desks, door handles and toilets will take place at regular intervals throughout the school day.

**School Visitors**

School visitors will be kept to a minimum until further notice, therefore there will be no after school clubs, swimming or educational visits/trips for the foreseeable future.

**Parents and guardians will not be allowed to enter the school building or playground.** We ask for your full co-operation with this requirement and please understand this is for the safety of all.

Access to the School Office will be limited to one person at a time and I would ask that you telephone or email your queries whenever possible.

**School Uniform**

In order to minimise the risk of spread within school it is recommended that uniform is changed regularly, preferably daily. Therefore, we ask that boys refrain from wearing school ties and please do not purchase multiple school jumpers as plain navy jumpers (preferably V-neck and similar in style to the normal school jumper) will be acceptable until further notice.

Apart from this, children should wear full school uniform and black school shoes- black trainers are not acceptable. All pupils will be required to have a pair of indoor shoes (plimsolls) which they will keep in school.

Please ensure that all items of uniform and coats are clearly labelled with your child’s name and class.

Anyone eligible for school and meal allowance should go to:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

**Childcare Provision**

Breakfast Club will be available each morning from **7.45am** and the After School Club will run from 2.00pm- 6.00pm. This service is inspected by the NHSCT and it is fully compliant with the Trust’s requirements to operate during the Covid-19 pandemic. If you would like any information about the childcare service please contact Play Leader, Caoimhe McIlwee, on 07719102335.

**Break and Lunch Time**

Children will be kept in their class ‘bubble’ during break and lunch, times will be staggered to ensure there is no mixing between bubbles. Each class will eat their healthy break in their classroom, there will be no break from the canteen or milk until further notice. They then will get to go outside to a designated zone in the playground.

The same procedures will take place at lunchtime with lunch being eaten in the classroom and each class getting outside for play at staggered times. Meals will be delivered to the classroom for those who are entitled to a Free School Meal or who wish to order lunch from the canteen. Canteen meals will initially take the form of a packed lunch.

Food should be brought to school in disposable wrapping or a lunchbox that is washable/wipeable. All children will need their own water bottle which should be brought to school each day. This bottle should be clearly labelled and washed daily.

It is essential that coats are brought to school each day, as we will try to get children outside at break times in all but the most extreme weather conditions.

The Department of Education plan to release further detailed guidance on the Educational Restart programme later this week. I will write to you again before the end of the week and address some of the questions that have not been answered in this letter. Thank you for your continued patience and co-operation. We look forward to welcoming all the children back to school in the coming weeks.

Yours Sincerely

H. Walls