

19 August 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **New Academic Year**

I hope that you have all had a safe and enjoyable summer. We are very much looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Wednesday 25 August.

We extend a special welcome to our new Primary 1 pupils who will also begin their journey with us on that day. New teaching staff joining us this year are Mrs Fletcher and Mrs Orr (Primary 1), Mrs Aicken (Primary 4), Mrs Calo (Primary 7), and Miss Mulholland (SENCO). We look forward to having them with us.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the plans in place for the beginning of term. There are many issues to be shared with you regarding our re-start and I will endeavour to cover these as succinctly as possible.

Following last week's Northern Ireland Executive meeting some school-related restrictions have been eased, including the removal of class bubbles. As a school, however, we feel that initially it will be best to commence the academic year retaining our class bubbles in order to keep our school community as safe as possible. We will endeavour to return to a more 'normal' environment when we have further knowledge of the path which the virus is taking.

***P2 – P7 children may be dropped off from 8.30 am. Please note however that, as at the end of last term, the children should walk directly to their classrooms in order to minimise interaction in the playground. We hope that this will be for a short period only and we can then revert to playground supervision for the children from 8.30 am, prior to the bell ringing for class to commence at 8.50 am.***

***As detailed on our previously circulated school Holiday List (copy attached), 25 August and 26 August are not full school days therefore I ask you to note that P2 – P7 pupils will leave school on those two dates at the times detailed below:***

<b>P2:</b>	<b>11.35 am</b>	<b>from the playground</b>
<b>P3:</b>	<b>11.40 am</b>	<b>"</b>
<b>P4:</b>	<b>11.45 am</b>	<b>"</b>
<b>P5:</b>	<b>11.50 am</b>	<b>"</b>
<b>P6:</b>	<b>11.55 am</b>	<b>"</b>
<b>P7:</b>	<b>12.00 noon</b>	<b>"</b>

***Please be aware that extensive roadworks have begun, affecting both road and pavement on the Pond Park Road, and are scheduled to last until November. Diversions are in place.***

We would very much appreciate your support in adhering to the following guidelines as we continue to implement measures to keep our school community as safe as possible.

### Parental Contact with School

- Parents will **not** be permitted to enter the school building;
- To speak to me, or a member of staff, it will be necessary to telephone the office to leave a message which will be dealt with, or your call will be returned as soon as practicable.

### Arrival at School/Going Home Arrangements

- Adults should wear masks whilst on school grounds and adhere to social distancing guidelines when leaving off or collecting children from the playground;
- Please adhere to arrival time and also to finishing times which will continue to be staggered, as detailed below, to minimise interaction;
- The main entrance and Corby Drive gate will both be open, morning and afternoon. At collection time, parents should make their way to the playground at the allocated time and wait behind the marked boundary line which runs parallel to the school building;
- Adults leaving off or collecting children should not remain on school grounds longer than absolutely necessary in order to minimise the possible spread of infection.

### Arrival Times

***The entrance which is to be used by each class will be clearly shown in each child's personal video from their teacher. Children will receive their video on Monday 23 August.***

***P1 pupils attend at times previously advised for the first three days (25 – 27 August):***

- (Half Class) Legal surnames commencing with letters A – M: 9.15 am – 10.15 am
- (Half Class) Legal surnames commencing with letters Mc – Z: 10.45 am – 11.45 am
- P1 enter via classroom fire doors (at back of school).

***All pupils in P2 - P7 should arrive between 8.30 am and 9.00 am and walk straight to their classrooms via the following entrances:***

- P2: P2P + P2C/P enter via fire doors; P2G/R enter via 'delivery' stairs entrance (just inside wooden gate);
- P3: P3W + P3D/M enter via fire door; P3M enter via fire door from Senior Play Park;
- P4: P4McC + P4M enter via fire door; P4G/A enter via fire door from Senior Play Park;
- P5: P5P + P5O enter via fire door; P5G enter via fire door from Senior Play Park;
- P6: Enter via 'delivery' stairs entrance (just inside wooden gate);
- P7: Enter via back stairs.

### Collection Times

- P1: Collection from where children are left off in the morning (eg at fire doors), at the times previously advised (and as shown above for 25 – 27 August).
- P2 1.50 pm from the playground
- P3 2.00 pm “
- P4 2.45 pm “
- P5 2.50 pm “
- P6 2.55 pm “
- P7 3.00 pm “

### Uniform/Equipment

- School uniform is to be worn (P3 - P7 pupils may wear their PE uniform to school on days when they have Swimming/PE/Games. The PE/Games timetable will be shared at the beginning of term.
- P1 and P2 will receive a school folder. P3 – P7 may now bring school bags to school;
- Children should bring their pencil case and required stationery items. Each child will be reminded of the stationery items they require as part of their teacher's video;
- Each child should bring a packet of tissues and hand sanitiser which should be left in school for their personal use. These will need to be replenished, as required.

### Eating Arrangements/Packed Lunches

- ***As the Education Authority does not permit School Dinners to be served until Wednesday 1 September, please note that all P2 – P7 children will therefore be required to bring packed lunches to school on Friday 27 August and Tuesday 31 August which they will eat in their classrooms;***
- Children will also need to bring a water bottle and a break. (P1 children will not require water or break during the first week (25 – 27 August);
- With effect from 1 September (when meal vouchers end), school will provide school dinners which must be ordered (both free and paid), via eduspot. Dinners will continue to be served to the children in their classrooms initially whilst class bubbles remain in force. P2 children, however, will eat in the Dining Hall in their class bubbles.  
***[Please note that Free School Meals can only be provided when school has received confirmation of eligibility from the Education Authority. Parents/Guardians who have been in receipt of support for the 2020/21 school year will have received a pre-populated form from EA which should already have been returned. New applicants who consider that they should be entitled to Free School Meals and who have not already submitted an application should apply online immediately, if they have not already done so, via <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals> .***
- Break and lunchtimes will be staggered and outdoor spaces will be divided into zones initially. Classes will remain in their class bubbles and not mingle with other classes in their year-group until we have reassessed the situation.

### Sanitisation

- We will continue with the practice of good hygiene and children will sanitise their hands on arrival each morning and before leaving school. All children will be reminded to wash their hands before and after break and lunch and also at intervals throughout the day.

### Breakfast Club/After-School Care

Breakfast Club will resume on Wednesday 25 August and After-School Care will resume on Friday 27 August. Those interested in enquiring about these facilities should contact Alison McCalister directly (07545 543 860).

*We will review the situation continually and arrangements will be fine-tuned as necessary. Our aim is that the children are kept as safe as possible.*

*Thank you in advance for your understanding and co-operation. We hope that the children will have an enjoyable and fulfilling academic year.*

Kind regards.

Yours faithfully

G T Cherry  
Principal