



RESTARTING SCHOOL – SEPTEMBER 2020

20th August 2020

Dear parents,

The staff are delighted to welcome everyone to the start of a new school term as we begin the resumption of school life after what has been a long and challenging period of school closure. Most importantly, we look forward to reconnecting and re-establishing relationships with the children and of course settling them back into a regular school routine. We especially welcome to St. John's the children who are commencing P1!

Please find below some important details about our return to school.

PROTECTIVE BUBBLES

All children will return to school on a **full time capacity** as a result of the relaxation on social distancing for the children. However, throughout the school day each class will learn, eat and play as a '**protective bubble**.' We will keep interaction between classes to a minimum using staggered break and lunch times. Due to these arrangements there will be a temporary cessation of the morning and after school clubs. Though the staff will be part of the 'bubbles' all adults on the school premises are expected to follow the PHA's guidance on social distancing of 2 metres when they are not in their 'bubble.'

P2-P7 STARTING DATES

P7 will return to school full time on **Monday 24th August**. A packed lunch is required.

Please note the school will be closed on Monday 31st August for the bank holiday.

P2 – P6 will return to school on **Tuesday 1st September** on a full time capacity:

P1 STARTING DATES

The P1 children will start school on either **Tuesday 1st September** or **Thursday 3rd September**. All parents have been informed of these dates however if you are unsure of your child's starting date please contact the school.

To help progression into school life and routine we ask that during the month of September the P1 children be collected at the following times:

- **Tues 1st/3rd – Friday 18th September – 12 noon**
- **From Monday 21st September P1 stay until 2.00pm** (*Please note the children will need dinner money or a packed lunch from this date – details of this to follow*)

SCHOOL DINNERS/HEALTHY SNACKS

For the first few weeks of term the children will be required to bring a packed lunch to school. Children who are entitled to Free Schools Meals will receive a packed lunch from the canteen. Lunch will be eaten in the classrooms to avoid congregations in the dining room. Once the children are settled and use to the routine of bubbles hot meals will resume.

All children can bring a healthy snack of fruit or vegetables for break time.

SCHOOL ARRIVAL AND PICK UP TIMES

All drop off and school pickups should take place at the back entrance of the school via the Church carpark. We kindly ask that children avoid using the front entrance. Children who are walking or cycling to school should also arrive or leave school at the back gate via the church walkway. Cones will be placed out at these times for them to use. As always we ask that when arriving and exiting the carpark you drive slowly and consider that children are making their way out of the school. Thankyou in advance!

The children can be dropped off at the school gates between 8.50a.m. and 9.05a.m. The children will be directed to their classrooms by an adult where they will wash their hands on arrival.

The pick-up times are:

- P1, P2 & P3 – 2.00p.m. (the children can be collected *as normal* from outside their classrooms)
- P4 & P5 – 2.50p.m.
- P6 & P7 – 3.00p.m.

We ask that adults follow the government's guidance on 2m social distancing and avoid gathering in groups at the school gates by making the most of the large space available.

Should you need to collect a child during the school day please come the main entrance of the school as usual and your child will be brought to you.

HYGIENE MEASURES

All children/staff will be required to wash their hands/use sanitisers on entering/leaving the school and regularly throughout the school day. Good personal hygiene in terms of handwashing, respiratory hygiene (Catch it, Bin it, Kill it) and keeping distance where possible will be explained and encouraged to the children.

Enhanced cleaning will take place during the school day in the classrooms and toilets.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Full school uniform will be worn as normal and should be clearly labelled.

SCHOOL BAGS/PENCIL CASES

School bags and lunch boxes can be brought to school.

To avoid the sharing of resources when in class we ask that each child in **P3-P7** bring a pencil case containing: HB pencils, rubber, sharpener, Pritt glue stick, ruler, colouring pencils or crayons, individual hand sanitisers and tissues. **This pencil case will remain in school under their desk and will not be brought home.**

CHILDREN WHO ARE UNWELL OR BECOME UNWELL IN SCHOOL

It is of paramount importance that you do not send your child to school if they are unwell. **If your child complains of feeling unwell, parents will be contacted immediately.** If your child or a member of staff displays COVID19 symptoms in school we will follow the protocol directed by the DE.

Please ensure any change in mobile numbers, work numbers etc. are relayed to school at the start of term.

VISITORS

Under current guidance parents are asked not to enter the school building unless by appointment. Our new P.1 starters will be given some degree of flexibility over their 1st few days at school. Your teacher, can of course be contacted via telephone between 3.15 – 3.45pm.

Please note that this is a guide to how we aim to begin our educational restart. It will be tweaked and modified over time, as we see what things are working or in need of change. Some things will impact significantly on what was once your 'normal routine' and for that we apologise. Nevertheless, we appreciate your support as we embark on our journey back to school and a different kind of normal.

Kind regards,
Louise McKnight
Principal