

## **Return to full-time school from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021**

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you are aware, the NI Executive has announced that **all children will return to school on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**. We hope this will be the last period of closure and that school life will return to normal.

In preparation for re-opening I want to outline the processes which have been in place in Term 1. As we are still living with Covid 19, it is vital we continue to adhere to messages, guidelines and restrictions from the NI Executive and Public Health Agency.

### Morning arrival

A staggered arrival will remain in place. The following times and surnames apply:

8:50am            A - L

9:00am            M

9:10am            N - Z

Children must not arrive before these times. Children can be dropped off in the carpark and walk through the playground. Parents are asked not to come up to, or enter the school building.

Parents are reminded to maintain a social distance of 2m and to wear face masks in the school grounds. There must be no gathering of adults in the school grounds at any time.

### Entry to the school building

P4RB will enter by the classroom exit door as was the case in Term 1.

P4EMG, P5CC, P5PF will enter by the door at the red building as was the case in Term 1.

P6MS, P6/7SMA and P7PH will walk through the playground, past the main entrance, enter the playground and use the rear entrance. Staff will be present to show the children where to go.

### Hand washing

Children will continue the handwashing regime 5 times a day: arrival in morning, before and after break time, before and after lunchtime.

### End of school day times

Children in P1AH and P1 JH finish at 1:50pm. P2MQ, P2SMA will finish the school day at 2pm. The arrangement from term 1 will remain in place. Teachers will bring children to the exit points. Adults are reminded of social distancing and wearing masks. Parents are not permitted to enter the school to collect children.

For pupils P3 - P7, a staggered finish will be in place as per Term 1:

2:40pm            A - L

2:50pm            M

3:00pm            N - Z

Children on buses will finish at 3pm.

### Dinners / Lunches

I would like to emphasise the importance of healthy breaks and lunches. Crisps, chocolate and fizzy drinks are not considered healthy options.

A reminder that dinners cost £2.60 per day. This money should be paid on a Monday.

### Symptoms

If your child is experiencing the following symptoms, they must remain at home:

- A new and persistent cough
- Raised temperature
- A loss or change in taste / smell

From our experiences in term 1, other symptoms not related to Covid have emerged. In all cases if a child is feeling unwell we will make a call to take them home immediately. We will advise you to book a Covid test and to let the school know the outcome of the test.

### Positive cases and close contacts

As in term 1 we will continue to follow guidance from the Public Health Agency in regard to positive cases and close contacts. As always we will work quickly and communicate to parents at the earliest opportunity to contain any potential spread.

### PE and Well-being

Parents will be rightly worried that their child/ren have missed out on so much. This is the case for everyone. Our task is to now build learning momentum and enable the children to succeed through high quality learning and teaching. As we embark on reopening I ask for the continued support of parents to help us in this task.

We will spend time settling children back into school and in forming friendships within classes. All staff members are aware and sensitive that the return to school may be difficult for some. We will provide support and reassurance to every child as they return to class.

We have employed Frances Rooney to host classes of 'Relax Kids' on Wednesday mornings. These are designed to promote the well-being of children and foster positivity.

## Learning and Teaching

Teachers and school staff have been preparing for a return to classroom learning. No amount of remote learning can replicate the experiences in the classroom. For the first few days, teachers will be finding a new baseline for where children are in their learning. It is from that point they will be able to identify and build new learning in order for all children to attain, progress and succeed.

The focus for learning will concentrate on the following areas:

Literacy - Talking and Listening, Reading, Writing, Spelling

Maths - Number and times tables

PE

All other areas of the curriculum will also be taught with links among different curriculum areas.

As always, we are available by telephone and email should you have any worries or want to talk to a teacher. Teachers will not be available during the teaching day but can follow up with a call at the end of the school day.