



3rd March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

As you are already aware the children in our P1-P3 classes will be returning to school from Monday 8th March and, as the situation currently stands, they will return to remote learning from March 22nd. Even though that only gives them a matter of days at school (due to the St. Patrick's week holidays), we are delighted to be welcoming them back after this extended period of remote learning.

I want to take this opportunity to outline some of the information you may require in preparation for your child's return. It is important to remember that we are still living with Covid 19 and it is the case that most of the restrictions we had in place before Christmas remain, and following guidance from the Department of Education, some further mitigations have been implemented in schools.

Please Note:

- Class bubbles will be re-established for these year groups with separate break/play times.
- Parents must wear face coverings when on the school grounds at all times, unless medically exempt from doing so.
- Parents are reminded to maintain a 2m social distance from each other and staff at all times, including at school gates.
- Parents should not enter the school building, unless prior arrangement has been sought.
- Only one parent/adult should collect/drop off children from school.
- Staff remain available and contactable via phonecall, email or through the ClassDojo messenger.
- Children are asked to bring their folders of work to school on their first day back.

Morning Drop Off/Afternoon Collection

- A staggered drop off will remain in place as in the first term, you should drop your child off at their designated entrance, at your previously allocated time between **8.30 and 9am**.
- You must use the entrance/exit gates allocated for each year group.
- All children in these year groups should be collected from their designated exit points at **2pm**.

Dinners/Lunches

- School dinners will only be available for those children in P1-P3 who wish to avail of one.
- Unfortunately, we have now been informed that only those children in P1-P3 are able to have a school meal. Children in our P4-P7 Keyworker bubble must continue to bring a packed lunch.
- School meals are £2.60 per day. A menu is available on our school website; meals must be booked in advance via our School Money service.

Uniform

- Children can continue with the option of wearing PE uniform and formal school uniform on alternate days, if necessary.
- Understandably, it may be the case that children will have outgrown items of uniform and indeed school shoes, for this reason and due to shops being closed, we will be taking a more flexible approach to uniform over the coming weeks.
- All children are asked to wear trainers/comfortable shoes for this period, as it is the intention they will be doing outdoor and practical activities as much as possible.

Curriculum

- The main focus for this initial return will be the children's emotional health and wellbeing. Ensuring they have time to reconnect with their friends and their teachers and to enjoy the social aspects of school they have missed out on. Establishing routines and settling them back into school life will be an important part of ensuring they are ready for learning again. All staff are aware and sensitive to the fact that coming back to school may be difficult for some, therefore we will be providing support and reassurance to all our children as they return.
- The children, will of course, continue with their formal learning, however the emphasis will be on practical and activity based learning.
- There will be no homework for this period of time, therefore children will not need to bring anything into school apart from their packed lunch/healthy snack/water.

P3/P4 Class

- The children in P3 will return to their classroom, however the children in P4 will continue with remote learning.
- To facilitate this Mrs McNally will continue to provide remote learning for our P4 children and Mr Crossey will teach our P3 children in school, assisted by Mrs Crawford. Mrs McNally will be in school a number of afternoons each week to support the P3 children, she will also be here on the Monday morning of their first day back.

Routines

- Children will continue with the well-established handwashing routines we have in school and we ask that you practise this with them at home. A short sleeved t-shirt under their school jumper is best as it makes it easier to roll up sleeves.
- Children should be kept at home if they, or anyone in their household, displays any symptoms of Covid 19.

I look forward to the day that these restrictions and mitigations are no longer required and we are able to get back to the 'normal' school day we previously enjoyed, in the meantime we must continue to be vigilant and adhere to all PHA and DE guidance. If you have any concerns about your child's return or have any queries regarding this, please get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support

Kind regards

Ms M Savage