

St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

10 Whites Road, Cabragh, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, BT70 3AN

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Acting Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn



24th February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On Thursday 18th February, the NI Executive announced the phased reopening of schools via the media. This afternoon I received official confirmation from the Department of Education about the phased return of pupils to school.

I can confirm that from 8th March until 19th March pupils in P1, P2 and P3 will return to full-time face to face teaching. (However, please note that school will be closed on Wednesday 17th March for St. Patrick's Day and also closed on Thursday 18th March for a Staff Development Day.)

March Update

- **Monday 1st March – Friday 5th March-** Supervised Learning for Key Worker/Vulnerable children and Remote Learning for all other children.
- **Monday 8th March – Friday 19th March- P1- P3** children return to school for face to face teaching. (There will be no Remote Learning for these children during their return to school unless children have to isolate due to a positive COVID-19 case.) School Meals will be offered to the P1-P3 children attending school.
- **Monday 8th March – Friday 19th March- P4-P7** children will continue with Remote Learning via Google Classroom and other E- Learning Platforms.
- **Monday 8th March – Friday 19th March-** The school will make arrangements to provide supervised learning for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers. It is essential to remember that the staff we will have available to manage this provision will be drastically reduced. This provision must only be used if there is NO OTHER provision available to you, as per DE guidance. We fully understand the stress and pressure home learning can place on families but we urge you to help us in what hopefully will be the last major lockdown of schools. We respectfully ask that parents consider every reasonable possibility before making an application.
- **School will be closed on Wednesday 17th March** for St. Patrick's Day and also **closed on Thursday 18th March** for a Staff Development Day. There will be NO Remote Learning on 17th and 18th March.
- **Monday 22nd March – Thursday 1st April- P1- P7** – Return to Remote Learning for ALL children, including P1 – P3. The school will make arrangements to provide supervised learning for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers.
- **Friday 2nd April – Monday 12th April (inclusive)- School closed for Easter Holidays.** Please note that Monday 12th April is a Staff Development Day.
- **After the Easter Holidays -P1- P3** will return to full-time face to face teaching in school. Further decisions are to be made by the NI Executive regarding P4-P7 at their next review.
- In today's correspondence with school, Peter Weir states that, "My objective remains to have a full return of all pupils to face to face teaching in school as soon as practicably possible after the Easter Break but I recognise that this has to be balanced against the public health position".
- The Department of Education have advised that educational Visits, inter- school sports and after school activities should remain paused until at least 12th April or until advised otherwise.

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- In line with guidance from SAGE we will continue to strictly adhere to mitigation measures including the bubbling of classes.

Monday 8th March – Friday 19th March- P1- P3 children return to school for face to face teaching.

- We ask that parents take their child / children's temperature before arriving at school. If your child has a temperature of 37.8 degrees or greater they should not be sent to school. Please **do not send a child who is unwell** in any way to school.
- Parents of children P1-P3 should drop off their children at the main school gate and the children should walk directly to their classroom. Parents should avoid parking close to or at the school gates. We encourage parents to park further away from the school and then walk with their children to avoid congestion.
- Staggered drop off and collection times will be put in place. Children should NOT arrive at school before 8.30 am.
 - Primary 3 children and their siblings in P1/P2 may be dropped off at 8.30 am.
 - Primary 2 children and their siblings in P1 may be dropped off at 8.40am.
 - Remaining Primary 1 children and Key Worker/Vulnerable children may be dropped off at 8.50 am.
 - Primary 1 children and their siblings in Primary 2 should be collected at 1.30pm.
 - Primary 2 children should be collected at 1.40 pm.
 - Primary 3 children should be collected at 2.40 pm
 - Key Worker/Vulnerable children should be collected at 2.50 pm
- Parents should observe 2m social distancing and not gather at the school gates at arrival or collection times.
- At both arrival and collection times, parents are actively discouraged from entering the school building as a means of preventing spread of the virus.
- On arrival to school each child will sanitise their hands at entry point and wash their hands before entering the classroom.
- **Primary 1 & Primary 2** children should make their way around the left hand side of the main school building and access the Primary 1 /2 classroom via the Fire Exit door. A sanitising station will be there on entry. School staff will be present to help and guide the children.
- **Primary 3** children should **not** enter the main school building. The children should make their way around the back of the main school building and go directly to their classroom in the new building. A sanitising station will be there on entry. School staff will be present to help and guide the children.
- **Key Worker/ Vulnerable Children** should enter the main school building via the fire exit door of the Assembly Hall. A sanitising station will be there on entry. School staff will be present to help and guide the children.
- Children will stay within their own class bubble on the playground areas and avoid contact with other classes. Each class/bubble will have their own designated zone on the playground.

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Hygiene Measures

- All children will be required to wash their hands/use hand sanitisers on entering the school and regularly throughout the day.
- Children will be encouraged to avoid touching their faces including mouth, eyes and nose.
- Children will be taught to use a tissue or elbow to cough or sneeze and use bins for tissue waste.
- Good personal hygiene practices will be actively encouraged.
- Extra cleaning and sanitising will be prioritised and we will have stringent hygiene measures and reactive strategies in place following guidance from the EA and PHA.
- Regular cleaning of door handles, desk tops etc. will take place throughout the day.

Sickness in school

If a child presents unwell during the day we will contact parents immediately and arrangements must be made to take the child home. We will have a designated isolation room which will be used in the event of a child feeling unwell. Children displaying symptoms will be taken to this room and supervised until their parents arrive to take them home. The school will inform parents of any confirmed cases of Covid-19 in their child's bubble.

School Uniform

Children will wear school uniform as normal. We ask that parents ensure that their child changes out of their school uniform as soon as they arrive home. We also request that parents try to launder their child's school uniform as often as possible during the week.

School Bags and Lunchboxes

Children should not bring a school bag to school. We ask that lunch is packed in a plastic lunchbox. Your child's lunch box should be cleaned and sanitised every morning before your child goes to school.

How Parents can help

- When escorting children to and from school all adults must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Only one parent should escort a child to the school gates.
- Parents will not be permitted into the school building without permission from the Principal.
- Please contact us if you need to enter the school building for any reason.
- Help your child/children practise good hand and respiratory hygiene.
- Encourage your child to practise social distancing from adults in school.
- Ensure we have three up-to-date contact numbers in case of emergencies.
- If your child has any symptoms of Covid-19 he/she should stay at home and you should follow the latest Public Health advice.
- If anyone in your child's household tests positive for COVID-19 please notify the school immediately.

We hope that everyone stays safe and well and we thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Quinn