

St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

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

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Acting Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn



19th March 2021

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Following the latest announcement by the Executive, I wish to update parents on the new arrangements for P4-P7 classes. Previous Executive decisions permitted the return of Primaries 1-3 from 8th March and to remain in school until the Easter break.

On 16th March the Executive agreed that **Primary pupils in P4-7 can return to full time face to face teaching from 22nd March.**

School Reopening - March 2021

1) **Mon 22nd March - Thurs 1st April - P1 - P7 - will return to school**

2) **Easter Break Friday 2nd April- Monday 12th April (inclusive)**

3) **School will reopen (after the Easter Break) for all pupils in P1 - P7 on Tuesday 13th April.**

School Arrival and School Departure

In order for us to ensure a safe return for all children, parents are asked to strictly adhere to their allocated drop-off and collection times. See table below.

We ask everyone to be prompt and follow a one-way system to avoid congestion. We request that drivers enter the White's Road from the Dungannon/Ballygawley Road and exit the White's Road onto the Fashglashagh Road.

It is important that parents strictly observe social distancing when dropping off/picking up children at the front gate. We ask that all parents wear a face mask when dropping off and collecting their child at the school gates.

With the exception of the first early bus, children should not be dropped off at school before 8.30am. Parents are asked not to park in the school lay-by or at the school gates when dropping off/picking up children. We ask that those dropping off and collecting children support the staggered arrangements to mitigate risk. All parents who wish their child to walk home must give written permission.

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Cohort	Arrival
P7/P6/P5 children & their younger brothers & sisters in other classes	8.30 am
P3/P4 children & their younger brothers & sisters in other classes	8.40 am
P2 children & younger brothers or sisters in P1.	8.50 am
Remaining P1 children (who have no brothers and sisters in other classes)	8.55 am

Cohort	Collection
P1` children	1.30 pm -children will be walked to the front gate for collection
P2 children	1.40 pm children will be walked to the front gate for collection
P7/P6/P5 children & their younger brothers & sisters in other classes	2.25 pm children will be walked to the front gate for collection
P3/P4 children	2.35 pm children will be walked to the front gate for collection
School Bus children	2.45 pm
Remaining P1 & P2 After School Club children	2.55 pm children will be walked to the front gate for collection

School Arrival - Routines

- 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 **not** enter the school via the front door. 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 & Primary 7** 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.
- **Primary 4 & Primary 5** children should **not** enter the school via the front door. The children should enter the main school building via the fire exit door of the Assembly Hall. The children should keep to the left of the corridor and go directly to their classroom. A sanitising station will be there on entry. School staff will be present to help and guide the children.

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- **Primary 6** 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 mobile. A sanitising station will be there on entry. School staff will be present to help and guide the children.

School Based Mitigations and Hygiene Measures

- We will continue to adopt the Class Bubble system in school and on the playground.
- Handwashing and sanitising - All children will be required to wash their hands/use hand sanitisers on entering the school and regularly throughout the day. Sanitising hands is no replacement for washing hands
- 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.
- Well ventilated rooms, windows open, especially when the children go out to play at break time (in order to refresh the air in the classroom)
- Limited movement around the school, especially of pupils.

COVID -19 Cases

- With return to school there is the increased chance of COVID-19 positive cases in school. Please, if your child is sick - **DO NOT SEND THEM to SCHOOL**. Remember children may present with different symptoms. **Seek medical advice from your GP.**
- If there is a positive case of COVID -19 in your home and your child has been in school, please make sure to contact the school as a matter of urgency to let us know.

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The symptoms of COVID-19 are:

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC COVID-19

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, a new type of coronavirus detected in China in late 2019.

Data shows the disease is mild in 80 percent of patients, severe in 13 percent, and critical in 6 percent.

Most common symptoms:

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Dry cough

Some patients may also have:

- Aches and pains
- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Diarrhoea

In critical cases, COVID-19 can cause severe pneumonia or a multiple-organ failure and can lead to death.

- A new, continuous cough- this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual); or
- A high temperature/fever - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back; or
- A loss of or change in sense of smell or taste.

Where a child displays gastrointestinal symptoms, such as vomiting or diarrhoea, they should not attend school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days.

Remember, if your child displays any of the COVID-19 symptoms you will need to arrange a COVID-19 test.

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. Children can wear their PE gear into school on PE days.

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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 school.
- 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 all inhalers/medication etc are in school and up to date.
- 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.

School Assembly

For the foreseeable future, the whole school will **not** come together in the hall for Assembly each morning. Children will go directly to their own classrooms on arrival to school.

School Arrival - New Routines

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.

School Dinners and Lunches

Please pay for school dinner using the 'School Money' online system. Please click on the following link if you have forgotten how to access School Money.

<https://login.eduspot.co.uk/public/portal/parent/?app=schoolmoney&source=notification&version=20190803>

All meals must be booked in advance for the week ahead online using School Money.

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All school meals and packed lunches will be eaten in the classroom and therefore children will remain in their protective 'bubbles'. There will only be one choice of dinner for the foreseeable future. A menu is available to view in the Parent Area on the school website. EA have issued all schools with a standardised menu. This will come into effect from the week beginning 12th April 2021. This menu will be published on the school website, in the Parent Area before the Easter holidays. It will stay in place until the end of June. It is important that you pay close attention to the first column, showing the dates. So for example, week beginning 12th April, you should look at the week 3 menu. Week beginning 19th April, you should look at the week 4 menu and so on. This will be in place until the end of June.

Break-Time and Lunch-Time

Break and lunchtimes will be staggered to help with social distancing and the maintenance of protective bubbles. 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.

Hygiene Measures

Packed lunches should be sent into school in a **plastic** lunch box, clearly labelled with your child's name. Lunchboxes and water bottles must be wiped down with an antibacterial wipe or spray each morning, before your child comes to school. Soft cloth lunch boxes are not permitted. **Children should take a healthy snack into school every day.**

The Healthy Lunchboxes initiative will continue. The Department of Education have made it their policy to insist that all schools encourage children to develop healthy eating habits and parents have an essential role in this. Please ensure that your child's lunch box includes only healthy options. Foods that contain chocolate, high levels of sugar, crisps and sweets are not to be included in lunch boxes. On Friday the children's lunch can include one treat. Nuts are not permitted in school. All children should bring a water bottle to school every day. This bottle should be clearly labelled with your child's name.

Please do not send children to school with nuts or food that contains nuts as we have a number of children who are allergic to nuts.

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School Bus

Children should, as far as possible, sit beside their brothers and sisters on the school bus. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that all children travelling to school clean their hands before they leave their home and board the bus. Parents should ensure that their children carry tissues on board the bus and that their children are aware of the need to follow the PHA's 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' message. No child should eat or drink whilst on board the bus unless it is for a medical reason. It is also strongly recommended, that all children should wear a face covering on the school bus for the journey to school, where it is appropriate for them to do so and they are able to handle them as directed.

School Bags

Your child can bring a school bag to school. It should be wiped down before coming to school and after going home. There should be nothing in the school bag.

Resources

All children (P3-7) may bring their own pencil case to school. This should be clearly labelled with your child's name and kept in school. Under current DE guidance children are not permitted to share resources. If you wish you can also send in a small bottle of hand sanitiser for your child that only they will be permitted to use.

Confirmation

Confirmation will take place on **Saturday 22nd May at 11am** in the Church of the Assumption, Tullyallen.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion will take place on **Saturday 12th June at 11am**, in the Church of the Assumption, Tullyallen.

Fundamentals

Fundamentals will commence for Primary 1-4 on Wednesday 24th March. Primary 1-4 may wear their PE gear to school every Wednesday.

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Relax Kids

Relax kids will resume on Thursday 15th April 2021.

Accelerated Reader

Term 2 Accelerated Reader prizes will be awarded on Thursday 1st April. We encourage all children to keep reading and try to reach their target by Wednesday 31st March.

The Minister of Education has advised that education visits, school trips, inter-school sports and after school activities will remain paused until advised otherwise.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope that everyone stays safe and well and we look forward to welcoming back all of our children on Monday.

Kind Regards,

Louise Quinn