

St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

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

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn



Information For New P1 Entrants 2021

18/08/2021

Dear P1 Parent/Guardian,

I hope you are all well and have been enjoying the summer break.

Congratulations on receiving a place for your child at St. Mary's Primary School for September 2021. We are thrilled to welcome all our new Primary One pupils and parents. We are sure you will have many happy experiences in our school. We aim to work in partnership with you to provide the best educational opportunities for the children in our school.

I know that your attention will now be turning towards school reopening arrangements.

The Department of Education emailed all principals last week advising that updated COVID guidance would be made available to schools before the commencement of the new school term. To date, school principals have not received the Department's COVID-19 School Restart Guidance. There are still many unanswered questions, but we will continue to keep you informed as we receive updates from The Department of Education and other relevant bodies.

Arrangements for Induction Morning

We will hold an induction morning for new P1 Pupils, on **Friday 27th August 9.30am - 11.00am** to give the children an opportunity to meet Miss Cush their new teacher, see their new classroom and to help with settling in.

Primary 1 children and parents should not enter the main school building. One parent may accompany their child to the classroom. Make your way around the left hand side of the main school building and access the Primary 1 classroom via the Fire Exit door. Observe social distancing, keeping 2 metres apart from other families as you make your way to the classroom. We request that only one parent accompanies their child to school on this day to avoid congestion and ensure that social distancing regulations can be more easily adhered to. The P1 children may wear their own clothes to school for the induction morning.

Important Dates

All Primary 1 children will commence school on **Wednesday 1st September**.

There will be a phased intake of children, beginning Thursday 2nd September – Tuesday 7th September. Seven children will be admitted each day (2nd / 3rd / 6th / 7th September). Please

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see the inside cover of your child's 'Starting School Pack' (given to parents in June) for the exact day your child should attend. The full class will return together again on Wednesday 8th September.

School Start and Finish Times

School start time is 8.45 am. CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE DROPPED OFF AT SCHOOL BEFORE 8.30 AM. We cannot facilitate children being dropped off any earlier as supervision is not available.

There may be staggered arrival/collection times to avoid too many people gathering at the school gates and to promote social distancing; hence helping to control the COVID-19 virus. These details will be confirmed and communicated to you as soon as we receive the COVID-19 School Restart Guidance from DE.

Please note the finishing time for the month of September for P.1 children is 12:30pm. This will change to 1:30pm from Monday 4th October onwards. The After-School Club for P.1 will commence on Monday 4th October.

School Meals

Dinners should be booked and paid for online using our School Money service. Dinner money must NOT be sent to school. The school dinner menu will be available to view in the Parent Area on our school website.

Lunches

Send your child to school with healthy lunch options. Please ensure all lunchboxes/bottles are washed daily before and after school to reduce the risk of the spread of Covid.

Break-time

We operate a healthy break policy in St. Mary's. Please send your child to school with a healthy snack each day. Sugary snacks and fizzy drinks are not permitted. Please do not send your child to school with an unhealthy break option.

Free School Meals/School Uniform/Physical Education Clothing Allowance Application

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

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School Transport

If your child is going to be travelling to and from school by bus in September 2021, an application form must be completed online. <https://www.eani.org.uk/home-to-school-transport-new/transport-online-applications/primary-school-transport-applications>

School Bags

I can confirm that we will permit the children to bring a school bag to school this year.

I cannot wait to welcome our new pupils to St. Mary's Primary School in September 2021!
I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Quinn