



August/September Arrangements

Dear Parents,

I hope you are having a good summer, unusual as it might be, and am pleased to be able to share with you an update of some of the arrangements we have made in preparation for our reopening. As always, these arrangements are subject to change if the Covid-19 situation alters.

Reopening

School will reopen on Monday 24th August as per Peter Weir’s announcement on 19th June. There will be a staggered return with P1 (Mrs Harris) & P7 (Mr Torney) on Monday, joined by P2/3 (Mrs Neill) & P6 (Mrs Caterson) on Tuesday and P3/4 (Mrs Sheridan) & P5 (Mr McGlone) on Wednesday. (See table below).

Everyone in school for the rest of the week. Our classrooms have been measured with 1m spacing between children and we can manage a return to school with all children present each day. We are open Monday 31st August.

Monday 24th	P1	P7				
Tuesday 25th	P1	P7	P2/3	P6		
Wednesday 26th	P1	P7	P2/3	P6	P3/4	P5
Thursday 27th onwards	All classes as normal					

In the mornings, the school gate will be open from 9.00am – please do not send your child in before this time.

Staggered arrivals of families to prevent bottlenecks have been advised by government guidance.

Surnames beginning A – McG are to arrive between 9.00-9.15am

Surnames beginning Mcl – W are to arrive between 9.15-9.30am

Children arriving by bus will enter the school whenever it arrives.

A member of staff will use a scanning thermometer to ensure each pupil is safe to enter school.

Hand sanitiser dispensing stations will be present around the school.

Children should not attend school if they, or a member of their household, displays any symptoms of COVID-19. If a child presents as unwell in school, he/she will be isolated and supervised by a member of staff until collected. If a member of a household displays COVID-19 symptoms, the school must be informed as soon as possible. All relevant PHA guidelines must be followed.

Teachers and CAs will be allocated classroom/corridor positions to ensure that each child arrives safely at the correct room and adheres to social distancing until they are in their class. On entering the school grounds, please tell the children they are to walk in an orderly fashion to their classroom and sit in their given seat.

**For the first term, Shoes will not be changed – indoor shoes will not be required.
Coats will be placed on the back of their seat.**

As usual, there will be a limited timetable for P1. They will stay in school until 12.15 until the end of September. They will have their lunch before going home. Teacher and CAs will bring the children to the front gate.

Parents, except for P1, will not be permitted to enter the school grounds. Communication with teachers will only be possible by phone from 3.00-3.30pm. It will not be possible to speak to teachers in the mornings due to the need for them to supervise children getting to class safely. Messages can be passed on by telephoning the secretary, Mrs Comber.

P1 parents will follow a one-way system up the steps at the front door, round the back of the assembly hall to the P1 classroom, hand over the child to teacher/CA and continue one way to the front of school via the lower side of school leaving via the gate.

If a parent must enter the school grounds for emergencies, they must supply and wear their own face mask.

Break time

2 classes will be able to go outside at a time, one class in each playground [weather permitting.]

Lunchtime

School dinners will not be available until 1st September – **children must bring a packed lunch in a plastic bag until then.**

There will be limited menu for the first few weeks.

3 sittings will be in operation with 2 classes at each sitting.

- (1) 11.45-12.15
- (2) 12.15-12.45
- (3) 12.45-1.15

Social distanced seating will be observed by the children.

Home times

P1 home-time will be at 12.15 for the month of September.

P2 will go home at 2.15pm

The remainder of the pupils will have staggered home times,

- P3 (Mrs Neill) & P3/4 3.00pm
- P5 & P6 3.10pm
- P7 3.15pm

Miscellaneous

The guidance stipulated that we were required to provide a 'diminished interaction' within the school day, which involved pupils occupying a classroom 'bubble' (isolated group). Leaving the classroom will only be permitted to use the toilet or to access the playground at break and lunchtimes or for PE. Children will be accompanied at all times by a member of staff when entering or exiting the building.

All pupils will return wearing normal full school uniform. We may allow PE kits to be worn on PE days when these are arranged.

Teachers have discussed potential curriculum content for when pupils return – Numeracy and Literacy will have priority and there will be a large emphasis on hygiene/hand washing. Homework comprising of spellings, tables, reading or online activities will be completed by children if/when it is felt appropriate to do so by the teacher.

Each child will have their own pencil-case and stationery equipment provided by school. They will not be permitted to bring any materials from home, bar lunchboxes which should be brought in a plastic bag.

No pencil cases, book bags or school bags are to be brought to school.

The school Fruit & Milk scheme will be considered at the end of September. Pupils may bring a bottle of water or healthy snack daily (perhaps inside a plastic bag) – as per our Healthy Eating Policy, no sweets, crisps or fizzy drinks. There will be no use of the water fountains to refill bottles. The provision of breakfast and after school clubs will not be available initially, however this may change in line with guidance.

Assemblies, swimming or educational visits will not take place yet.

Only outdoor PE lessons will take place.

Buses – a letter from Education Authority can be found on the school website. Children should social distance and are advised to wear a mask if this is possible.

Money

As parents are not permitted onto the school grounds, all money should be placed in a named, sealed envelope with the instruction for it to be given to the teacher as soon as they get into class.

For the final days of the holidays it would be useful if parents reinforced the following areas as these will be expected in school. We will have child friendly posters to remind children of these important actions.

- Using a tissue: 'catch it, bin it, kill it'.
- Coughing / sneezing into a tissue or elbow.
- Washing of hands with soap (20 seconds).
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- 1m social distancing from friends (airplane arms) and 2m from staff.
- Independently putting on and taking off coat, opening lunch box and items of food.

School will be different when we return, but I would like to assure you that our aim is to make school life as normal as possible. The staff and I look forward to welcoming everyone back and making sure that our boys and girls continue to have the opportunity to learn lots of new and exciting things in a safe environment. The safety and well-being of our pupils will be our main focus and personal hygiene and cleaning routines will be central to this.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me by email if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Torney

Principal