



# St Mary's Primary School

220 Mayogall Road, Portglenone, Co Antrim, BT44 8NN

Tel: 02825821066 Fax: 02825822039

Email: [mmeehan763@c2kni.net](mailto:mmeehan763@c2kni.net)

Principal: Mr. M Meehan

**5<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

## Dear Parents

Please note the following in relation to arrangements for the new academic year.

### **Beginning of Term**

School will resume on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August for our P7 children only. The children are to arrive at school at 9am and go directly to Miss Maguire's room via the main reception area of the school. School finishes that week at the usual time of 3pm.

P1 induction times have been sent out to parents and this will also take place during this week. Parents are to go directly to Mrs Quinn's room via the second door – not the main reception. Mr Meehan will be there to welcome and direct parents & children.

School will begin for ALL pupils on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September**. STAGGERED start and finish times to the school day for each class will be implemented and parents will be notified of these times in a letter on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August**.

Classes have been structured as follows:

<b>P1</b>	<b>Mrs R. Quinn</b>
<b>P2</b>	<b>Miss McGoldrick</b>
<b>P3</b>	<b>Mrs A. Quinn</b>
<b>P4 (Group A)</b>	<b>Mrs Duffy</b>
<b>P4 (Group B)</b>	<b>Mr Meehan</b>
<b>P5</b>	<b>Mrs McDaid</b>
<b>P6</b>	<b>Mr Warnock</b>
<b>P7</b>	<b>Miss Maguire</b>

### **Adjustment to School Day**

Our breakfast club, 2pm-3pm minding club & all after school clubs have been postponed ensuring children remain in their social bubble throughout the school day.

With social distancing currently set at one metre we will endeavour to use the whole school to accommodate the children attending school **FULL TIME** - five days a week. The two largest classes in 2020-2021 are P4 and P6. We are unable to set tables one metre apart in these classrooms therefore Mr Warnock will move into the school hall allowing for social distancing to be adhered to. The hall will be used primarily by the P6 class. PE sessions will take place outside where possible and children will have their lunch in their classrooms.

The P4 class will be split in two groups. Mrs Duffy will teach Group A and Mr Meehan will teach Group B in the available P6 room. Children will be directed to the relevant P4 class upon their arrival on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September.

Withdrawal groups will be timetabled for children on IEP's throughout the week allowing them to work specifically towards their IEP targets.

Children will remain in their class/social bubbles for the whole school day. Staggered breaks and lunches will be in place to reduce the risk of children mixing from class to class.



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Break and lunch times will be staggered to ensure children remain in their social bubbles. The school yard will be partitioned to allow each class to play outside during both breaks whilst remaining in their social bubbles. Classrooms will be sanitised regularly throughout the school day and school dinners will be available; however, each class will have their lunch in their classrooms as the hall will be in use. A dinner menu will be posted on our school website in due course. Children who bring packed lunches to school are asked, if possible, not to bring lunch boxes to school but to bring their lunch in bags or containers that can be disposed of to reduce the risk of carrying infection. Break time snacks can still be purchased in school and they will be delivered to each class. Further details outlining the measures that will be in place in relation to the procedure of paying for lunch and break on a weekly basis will be outlined in correspondence scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> August.

**Please note:** If social distancing restrictions are eradicated for children, they will remain in their class and classrooms as normal whilst staying in their social bubbles throughout the school day. Staggered breaks and lunches will remain in place. Lunch sittings will be moved back into the school hall and a system will be in place to ensure each class stay in their social bubble during lunch.

If social distancing restrictions are increased a blended learning approach will be introduced and parents will be notified of the school arrangements.

## **School Bus and Travel**

Please visit the Educational Authority – Transport department for information in relation to the school bus. If necessary, complete the application to check if your child is eligible for the school bus and contact the EA directly in relation to times and proposed procedures to ensure social distancing is adhered to. Start and finish times of the school day will be taken into consideration for children accessing the morning and afternoon school bus.

[www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/home-to-school-transport](http://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/home-to-school-transport)

## **Uniforms and Stationary**

Children will have to come to school with freshly washed clothes every day to prevent the risk of carrying the COVID-19 infection. Children are expected to wear their school uniforms as normal, however the difficulties faced by parents to adhere to this, is understandable. Therefore, a reduced uniform will be acceptable during this time, for example, different combinations such as – School polo shirt, school jumper and tracksuit bottoms will be allowed.

Parents are asked NOT to send school bags in with their child. Homework will be sent out on a Monday in a disposable folder/bag and children are asked to return the completed work on Friday in a disposable folder/bag. Reading material will also go home with the children on Monday and MUST be returned to school on Friday. It is imperative that reading material is returned as we have limited reading resources and they must be safely sanitised before being circulated amongst the children. Online reading resources will also be available to the relevant classes.



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Parents are asked, if possible, to provide their child with a pencil case with necessary stationary that will be kept in school and used primarily by their child. This will reduce the potential risk of passing infection from person to person. Where this is not possible the school will provide stationary for the children. Suggested items – Pencils, colouring pencils/twistables, glue stick, small ruler, sharpener, rubber.

## **Finally**

Please adhere to government guidelines in relation to self-isolation if a child or family member is displaying COVID-19 symptoms or if returning when travelling abroad. The school's procedure on dealing with COVID-19 on site will be stipulated in correspondence scheduled for the 18<sup>th</sup> August as guidelines surrounding this are continually changing.

Our priority is to get the children back to full time education and although we are all facing uncertainty, we must stay positive and continue to work together as a community. There is no doubt that we face many challenges, but I am confident that we can implement a new and effective system that will allow our children to continue to develop emotionally and academically during this period of uncertainty.

**Yours Sincerely**

**Mr M. Meehan** (*Principal*)