



St Mary's Primary School

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

Tel: 02825821066 Fax: 02825822039

Email: mmeehan763@c2kni.net

Principal: Mr. M Meehan

18th March 2021

Dear Parents

Following the Executive's announcement this week all primary school children will return to school on Monday 22nd March 2021. This is great news and we look forward to welcoming all the pupils back after such a long period away from school. All the children will be given the time and opportunity to reconnect with each other and their teachers as we continue to live through challenging times. A host of activities will take place between now and the end of the school year where all children can interact and have fun in the safety of their class bubbles.

Staggered Start and Finish Times

Please ensure to drop off and pick up your child/children at the allocated times below. If you have more than one child attending school, you can drop all children off at the latest allocated time.

| <u>Morning</u> | | <u>Afternoon</u> | |
|----------------|---------|------------------|---------|
| 8.40am | P3 & P5 | 1.50pm | P1 |
| 8.50am | P2 & P6 | 2.00pm | P2 |
| 9.00am | P4 & P7 | 2.50pm | P3 & P5 |
| 9.05am | P1 | 3.00pm | P4 & P6 |
| | | 3.10pm | P7 |

COVID - Keeping School Safe & Informed

Please remember, you must contact the school if your child or anybody in your family tests positive. You can email mmeehan763@c2kni.net, call the school during normal hours: 02825821066, text or call the school outside normal hours: 07593577911. Please notify the school at the earliest possible time so precautionary measures can be put in place subject to PHA guidance.

Statement issued by the Department of Education:

'Parents and carers are asked not to congregate at school gates when they are dropping off their children. Always practise good social distancing and wear a mask and try to avoid going beyond the school gate unless you have an appointment. If you need to speak to a teacher ring or email first.'

We ask parents not to enter the school premises when dropping off or collecting their children. Mr Meehan will be at the main reception area each morning to welcome the children. If a message needs to be passed to a teacher please inform Mr Meehan, call the school or email the teacher directly.



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Contact with Teachers

To reduce the foot-fall in school we ask parents to make direct contact with class teachers through email or call the school and a member of staff will return their call. Parents are required to wear face coverings at all times when on the school grounds.

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| P1 Mrs Quinn | rquinn574@c2kni.net |
| P2 Miss McGoldrick | pmcgoldrick168@c2kni.net |
| P3 Mr Toner | ntoner632@c2kni.net |
| P4 Mrs Duffy | kduffy613@c2kni.net |
| P5 Miss O'Boyle | noboyle426@c2kni.net |
| P6 Mr Warnock | pwarnock562@c2kni.net |
| P7 Miss Maguire | mmaguire562@c2kni.net |

School Dinners and Breaks

We hope to launch a cashless system in the near future where parents can download an app and transfer funds to school to pay for dinners, breaks, trips etc. Further details will follow in due course.

To ensure social distancing between classes is adhered to during break and lunch parents are asked not to send money to school with their child on a daily basis. The following arrangements will remain in place.

If you would like your child to receive toast during break time we ask that £5 is sent in at the beginning of the school term. This will pay for 4wks and toast will be brought to each class and safety distributed to the children.

If you would like your child to receive a school dinner, we ask that the total amount of money and days you would like your child to receive dinner is sent in at the beginning of each week. Please note dinners cost £2.60 per day and include milk and a dessert eg – NAME £7.80 Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Money will be collected in class and brought to the kitchen by a member of staff.

All money is to be sent in a sealed envelope with details written on the front

Uniforms Homework and Stationary

Children must 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.

Homework and reading material will be sent home and your child's class teacher will inform the children on when the completed work is to be returned. 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 continue to be available to the relevant classes.

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



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school will provide stationery for the children. Suggested items – Pencils, colouring pencils/twistables, glue stick, small ruler, sharpener, rubber. If your child's pencil case has been in school from the Christmas break please encourage them to take it home so it can be replenished.

We are allowing children to bring a lunch bag and school bag to school each day however, we ask that parents regularly sanitize them to prevent the risk of carrying infection.

Our school will continue to implement all the necessary hygiene measures and the children will be given opportunities to clean their hands regularly throughout the school day. We recommend that parents provide a small bottle of hand sanitiser and a small packet of tissues that can be kept under their child's desk.

Easter Break

School will close for Easter on Thursday 1st April and reopen on Monday 12th April. We ask that all parents collect their child/children at the following times on Thursday 1st April. If you have more than one child attending school, you can collect all children at the earliest allocated time.

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| P1 | 10.50am |
| P2 | 11am |
| P3 & P5 | 11.10am |
| P4 & P6 | 11.20am |
| P7 | 11.30am |

Easter Raffle

There will be an Easter raffle to raise funds for Trócaire. Children can buy raffle tickets from their class teacher at 20p each and the Easter prizes will be displayed at the reception area of our school.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school as we are here to support our entire school community. Please stay safe and exercise caution as we continue to live through challenging times.

Your Sincerely

Mr M. Meehan (*Principal*)