



Parent/Guardian Update – June 2020

12th June 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope that you and your families are keeping well. I want to firstly thank you for your efforts aiding remote learning and your support for all our staff during this difficult period.

As you will be aware from the media, we do not have the full details on how schools will reopen but we anticipate that this will involve a phased return of pupils, beginning in August. The detail of the exact parameters of the restart have not yet been issued and I intend to write to you with more information when I have it at my disposal. However, I appreciate that you do need time to make plans for the new school year in order to manage your own family and work commitments.

The information below I hope will give you some indication on the direction of travel without committing to dates, which would be foolish at this stage. Please be assured that our staff and Governors are working very hard to prepare for your child to have a safe and purposeful return to school.

End of School Year Arrangements

Remote Learning and Provision of Childcare for Key Workers

In order to allow time to make the necessary arrangements for the end of this school year and preparation for the next, all online support from teaching staff will cease on **Friday 19th June**. In the final days of term all staff will be in school planning for the reopening of school.

The provision of childcare for key workers will cease on **Friday 26th June**.

End of Year Reports and Collection of Belongings

As you can imagine, when schools closed so suddenly back in March, a lot of belongings were left behind that we wish to return to children. In addition, staff have completed annual reports for every child which will also need to be collected.

Collection of the above from school is on **Tuesday 23rd June between 9am-6pm**. Further details of the collection arrangements will be communicated via the NI Schools App.

Transition Arrangements

Nursery and Y1 individual visits will take place in the week beginning 15th June. Details for these visits have already been communicated to parents.

Y7 Leavers' visits will take place from Wednesday 24th – Friday 26th June.

Movement of Classes 2020-2021

In the current circumstances, we have spent a great deal of time thinking about how our children will return to school – academically, socially and emotionally. With that in mind, we have decided that all children will return to their previous class and teacher initially on their return to school. This may result in a delay to the start date for our new cohort of nursery children, Mrs Black will keep families informed of any important information by email so please make sure your details are up to date.

In addition, we are informing you of your child's new teacher today in order to give them time to make contact before the end of term. After a short period of readjustment, all classes will then move on to their new classes as outlined below. I know that parents have a great deal of concern around transitions, this year in particular, but I would ask you to trust our judgement and remember that we always have the best interests all our children at heart when making these decisions.

Year 4 families have been informed of their child's teacher this afternoon by email. We hope to be in a position to confirm the appointment of a Year 6 teacher before the end of term.

2019-20	2020-21
Nursery	Mrs Walker
Nursery	Mrs Haslam & Mrs Rutherford
1HW	Mrs Black & Mrs Rutherford (1 day VP release)
1LR	Mrs Beckett
2HB	Mrs Kerr (1 day) & Mrs Picken
2CB	Mrs Gordon & Mrs Kerr
3GK	Mr McKeefry
3LP	Mrs McVea & Mrs Skelly
Y4 class 1	Mrs McGoldrick
Y4 class 2	Miss Molloy
5NM	6 TBC
5FM	Mrs Wallace
6CW	Miss Cartwright
6SC	Mrs Fuller

New Academic Year 2020-2021

Teaching and Learning

Based on initial plans, it would appear that schools will be delivering a period of 'blended learning', comprising of both teaching input in school for a number of days per week with distance learning provided at home using an online platform for the remainder of the week.

Practicalities

We, as a community, will not be returning to school as we know it. The number of children we can safely accommodate per day in the short term is very much dependent on the guidance we receive from the Department of Education. It is our aim to ensure that families are together in school on the same day, a challenging task with almost 350 families attending Lough View. We cannot guarantee to keep children together in friendship groups, but we will endeavour to do so as best we can. The most important thing is that children can return to school to learn in a safe environment.

Childcare and Extra-Curricular Activities

The current guidance for safe working outlines that visitors should not enter school unless in the case of an emergency. Children will only work with others in a small and consistent group while in school. For these reasons, neither Lough View Stay and Play nor any after school clubs will operate until such times as we have assurances that it is safe to do so. Our music tutors are available to provide tuition online, privately to those who wish to avail of it, more information is available from Mrs Skelly.

School Meals and Transport

At the time of writing this letter no information has been provided about the provision of either service in the new school year.

Healthy and Safety

A big part of our return to school will involve new procedures to ensure we can keep both our children and staff safe whilst in school. This will incorporate things like social distancing, hand hygiene and drop off/pick up routines. We also want you to be reassured that it is safe for your child to be in school. Once these procedures have been agreed, in line with guidance from the Department of Education, we will communicate them to parents.

I hope that the information above provides you with some reassurance that planning is taking place, however we can only work out the detail as the guidance is published. Again, I would appeal for continued patience, goodwill and understanding as we, and many other educators around the world, try to negotiate these unprecedented issues in the interests of your child's safety and future education.

Thank you for your continued support of all our school staff and I will endeavour to keep in touch with you throughout the summer and keep you abreast of any additional information as I receive it.

Regards

S Spillane

Principal