



## School Restart Information

21<sup>st</sup> August 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

In preparation for the New School Year, I wish to provide you with some whole school arrangements that we have put in place for the safe return of our children to Lough View, beginning on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August with the return of our Year 7 pupils. Your child's new teacher will have already been in touch with you with specific information regarding arrangements for your child. Between both letters, I hope that you will have established a clear picture of how we plan to move forward safely.

All the plans we have put in place have been approved by our Board of Governors and take into account the latest public health advice and the most recent version of the guidance for schools published by the Department of Education on 13<sup>th</sup> August. Whilst all guidance is welcome, it still does not provide absolute clarity in all areas and we are left to interpret and implement it as best we can in the interest of all members of our school community.

From the outset it is vital that parents understand that although children will be returning to school on a full-time basis from 7<sup>th</sup> September, we are only at the beginning of our journey back to a return to 'business as usual.' Our priority is to ensure that your child can reconnect with their peers, teachers and wider school life. The procedures we have put in place are designed to ensure that these targets can be achieved safely but they will require patience and co-operation from all our families.

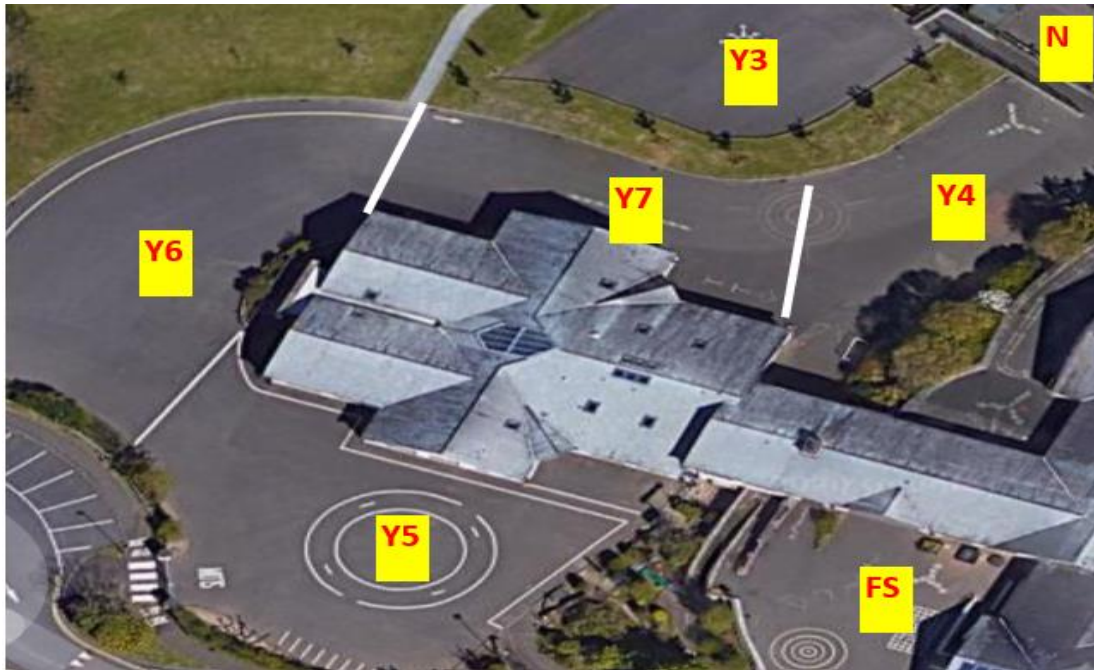
### **Drop Off and Pick Up**

In order to minimise large gatherings at busy entrance and exit points, drop off and pick up points have been staggered to allow for children and families to safely exit the school grounds.

Due to the range of pick up points needed to escort all children safely off site, there will be **no provision for additional parking in the Y5 playground at 2.30pm** until at least the end of September. This will also facilitate parents getting to their designated pick up point in good time.

We would ask that you try to be as flexible as possible picking up your child and consider using Henry Jones and walking across to school.

The map below outlines the different pick up areas that have been shared with you by your child's teacher, it is also available on the school Facebook Page.



Only parents dropping off and picking up from the Nursery may enter the school grounds in the morning. Otherwise children should be left at the gates. Children in Year 1 & 2 (FS), will be met by a member of school staff. All other children should enter through the bottom gate and make their way to the relevant area to be collected by their teacher.

Under the current arrangements children may arrive at school up to 9am when teaching will begin. Any children arriving after this time should go directly to the school office where they will be escorted to their classroom. Parents are not permitted to enter the school building to bring their child to class.

In line with current guidance, we would ask parents to leave the school site as soon as possible after drop off or pick up and we recommend that you wear a face covering if waiting to collect your child.

### **School Bus Arrangements**

As previously communicated, the school bus service will resume on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September on its normal route. The Education Authority have published guidance for school transport which we will be adhering to, specifically ensuring social distancing and encouraging children travelling to wear a face covering if they feel comfortable to do so.

Most importantly, the current guidance is only to use the school bus service if there is no other available option for travelling to school.

Bus passes for eligible children have arrived and will be distributed in the coming days.

## **The School Day**

All classes will now become 'protective bubbles' under the current DE guidance, so we will be minimising the movement of classes as much as possible throughout the school day and trying to make best use of our fantastic outdoor space, weather permitting.

Our initial focus will be providing opportunities for children to re-engage with their peers through play, share their experiences of being away from school and recover learning in core curriculum areas. Arrangements for what your child should bring to school have been outlined by their teacher. Normal homework routines will not apply until at least the end of September.

Children will play in designated areas for break and lunch times. Those having packed lunch will eat in their classroom. School dinners will also be available with a reduced menu initially, however parents should be aware that those who avail of this service may be eating with peers from the other class in their year group, depending on numbers.

## **Hygiene Measures**

As well as measures already outlined above, indoor and outdoor sanitiser stations have been installed to facilitate good hand hygiene. Children will be provided with opportunities throughout the day to wash their hands regularly.

Class layouts have been adjusted to ensure that children are facing forwards as much as possible, in line with guidance. Your child's teacher will have provided you with information about what is required in terms of equipment for the school. **One school bag containing a snack, water bottle or lunch box only and a coat are permitted to be brought daily.**

Communal indoor areas such as the assembly and ICT suite are currently out of use. We have timetabled the use of our outdoor spaces to ensure that we can maintain our protective bubbles.

Staff have been asked to wear face coverings in communal areas such as the staff room and during drop off and pick up times.

Enhanced cleaning will take place during the school day and after the children have left.

## **Attendance**

Due to the nature of the current self-isolation guidelines, there is the potential for disruption to your child's attendance. We are awaiting further advice from the Department on how we should record absence if a child has to self-isolate as a precaution or there is a positive diagnosis within their household.

I would appeal to all parents to think carefully before sending your child to school if you feel they are displaying any of the symptoms of Covid-19. Any children who develop symptoms in school will be brought to an isolated area of school until they can be collected as soon as possible. **It is also important to contact school as soon as possible if you have returned to Northern Ireland from a country that requires a period of self-isolation. The most up to date list can be found on the [NI Direct](#) website.**

If you are unsure how to proceed, you should consult the simple guide below:

What to do if.....	Action needed	Return to school when....
<i>My child has coronavirus symptoms</i>	<b>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</b> Contact school daily Self-isolate Get a test Inform school immediately about test result	The test comes back negative and they are fever free for 48 hours.
<i>My child tests positive for coronavirus</i>	Inform the school immediately about the test result <b>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</b> Contact school daily Self-isolate for at least <b>10</b> days	They can return to school after <b>10</b> days even if they have a cough or loss of taste or smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once infection is gone. If they continue to have a high temperature they should stay at home.
<i>Somebody in my household has coronavirus symptoms</i>	<b>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</b> for 14 days Contact school daily Household member to get a test Inform the school immediately about the test result	Stay at home for 14 days after the first person in your home started having symptoms.
<i>Somebody in my household has tested positive with Coronavirus</i>	Inform the school immediately about the test result <b>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</b> Contact school daily	The child has completed <b>14</b> days of self-isolation
<i>The Track and Trace scheme has identified my child as a close contact of somebody with symptoms of confirmed coronavirus</i>	<b>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</b> Contact school daily Self-isolate for <b>14</b> days	The child has completed <b>14</b> days of self-isolation
<i>My child has travelled abroad and has to self-isolate as part of the quarantine process</i>	<u><b>Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed</b></u> <b>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</b>  Self-isolate for 14 days Provide information to the school as per attendance policy	When the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed
<i>Staff or pupils in my child's bubble have tested positive</i>	Inform the school <b>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</b> Everyone in the bubble must self-isolate and take a test.	When a negative test is confirmed or the necessary isolation period has been completed.

Only parents and families affected by a suspected or confirmed case will be informed and personal details will be kept strictly confidential. The above apply to all siblings also.

### **Medical Information**

If your child or someone in your household falls into the categories of 'clinically vulnerable' or 'clinically extremely vulnerable', you should contact myself to provide further information so that risks can be assessed and additional measures put into place if required. Parents of children of children with a medical condition requiring medication should ensure that all medicines in date and sent to school in a clearly labelled bag.

### **Communication**

We aim to continue to provide you with relevant information on both a whole school and individual class level. For us to do this efficiently, it is important that your contact details are up to date (mobile phone number for at least 2 adults and 1 email address). Whilst most of our communication is purely for information, we may need to contact you urgently.

**Please take 2 minutes out of your day to check with your class teacher or the school office that your details are up to date if you have missed some recent communications from school.**

If you need to contact the school office, please do it by telephone unless it is urgent. We would ask that you please stay a safe distance if you need to discuss anything with a member of office staff. Any items forgotten or not brought in should be left in the clearly labelled box and they will be brought to your child's class.

In the event that you have a concern or a query, we would ask that you speak to us directly in the first instance. We have come so far as a school community during the period of school closure to get to a point where the children can safely return to Lough View. Like you, we are anxious that the return goes to plan and that everyone co-operates with the new measures we have had to put in place. Please remember that each decision we have taken throughout this entire process has been with your child and your family at heart.

So we look forward to seeing you, from a distance, over the coming days and weeks as our wonderful school slowly comes to life again. Be assured that we will keep in touch and keep your child safe.

Thank you for your ongoing support and let's continue to work together in the interests of our children.

Regards

S Spillane

Principal