



Whole School Restart – Monday 7th September

6th September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

It has been great to see all our children return to school for their transition visits over the last few weeks. Everyone has had a smile on their face, and it was lovely to bring a very unusual school year to some sort of 'normal' conclusion. Thank you to every single parent or family member who took the time to stop and say hello or share their excitement at being back!

I am hugely grateful to all parents, relatives and wraparound care providers for their co-operation to date with the new routines we have had to put into place. We are all learning and there have been a few things to iron out along the way, but we hope that everything is in place for the full time return of all pupils tomorrow. We are also very excited to welcome our new Nursery intake for the first time over the coming days and weeks.

Drop Off and Pick Up

All children should go to the drop off and collection points for their **new classes** from Monday. If you are unsure where your child should go, please contact your class teacher who will be happy to remind you of the necessary details.

Remember drop off times are staggered to reduce large gatherings at the gates in the morning and afternoon. Please follow the one-way system when entering through the bottom gate in the afternoon. Your child should be collected by either 1.30 or 2.30pm at the latest, depending on the finish time for their year group.

Traffic will be much busier from next week, so please remember that additional parking is available at Henry Jones.

In line with current guidance, we continue to 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 whilst waiting to collect your child.

School Bus Arrangements

The current guidance remains that the school bus service should only be used if there is no other available option for travelling to school.

Bus passes for eligible children continue to arrive and we will distribute them as soon as they do so.

The School Day

Our children have settled back into school well and are familiarising themselves with the new routines in place, particularly with relation to hand hygiene and moving around the school.

School dinners continue to operate on a limited menu with children taking packed lunches in their classrooms. Children eligible for Free School Meals may have a packed lunch provided if they wish, but please inform your child's teacher on Monday morning on the days you wish to take up this option for the week ahead.

Hygiene Measures

Thank you to parents and children for making good use of the outdoor sanitiser stations when entering and exiting the school grounds. Indoor sanitiser units have now been installed in all cloakrooms and other communal areas around the school.

Remember your child should come to school with **one bag only** each day which can contain a lunch box, drink and snack as required. Any completed work that is sent home should not be returned to school.

Staff have been asked to wear face coverings in communal areas such as the staff room and during drop off and pick up times. In class, all staff have access to any protective equipment they judge to be necessary for working with children.

Attendance

We are grateful to all parents for taking a 'safety first' approach to dealing with the issue of children presenting with symptoms. What we have found so far, in our very short experience this year, is that there is no one size fits all approach to this issue.

Schools are very much being left to make medical judgements with limited advice from external agencies, in an ever-evolving situation. I recognise the disruption caused by having to self-isolate and take further time off work if you find yourself in this situation, but I appeal for continued patience and co-operation from all our families.

The key points remain that if your child presents with any of the key symptoms (temperature, new cough and loss of taste or smell), you should not send your child to school and you should seek a test as soon as possible. Please keep in touch with school during this time and we will advise you when it is safe for your child to return.

If your child has any other symptoms and you feel they are not fit for school, you should keep them at home until they are well again.

In terms of travel, the picture continues to change. If you have recently returned from a foreign country and are unsure if you need to complete a period of self-isolation, the most up to date information for Northern Ireland can be found [here](#).

Pupil and Parent Survey

As part of our evaluation of the period of school closure and the process of reopening the school, we have put together a short survey for pupils and parents to share their experiences of remote learning and look ahead to the new school year. I would appreciate it if you could take 10 minutes to complete the survey with your child using the link below. The survey will remain open until Friday 11th September and all feedback will help us plan for future provision, within the current guidelines.

[Click here to complete the Parent and Pupil Survey](#)

All other arrangements that have been put in place will remain until at least Friday 2nd October and I will keep you informed of any planned changes closer to the time.

GOOD LUCK to all the boys and girls as they return for their first full week, in their new classes with their new teachers. For the first time in nearly six months, we will have our entire school community back where they belong, *Learning and Growing Together*.

Regards

S Spillane

Principal