



**St. Mary's Primary School**  
**Principal: Mrs U. McAlinden M.Ed. B.Ed. PQH (NI)**

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25<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your families are keeping well and have had an enjoyable summer break. Following the Minister for Education's revised COVID-19 guidance there remains,

*'the need for educational settings to continue to support effective contact tracing' and 'they are asked to maintain a cautious and measured approach that still seeks to maximise the time where pupils are within a consistent group of pupils.'*

Our children will return to school with social distancing and implementing a 'protective bubble' strategy whilst indoors.

- Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August                      School Closed – Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August                      Induction Day for P2-P7 - finish at 12.00 noon
- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September              P1/2, P2/3, P4, P5, P6/7 (All Pupils) – full day

Arrival times will continue to be staggered between 9.00am and 9.15am. All children will access the school building in the morning through the assembly hall, use the sanitizing stations and wash their hands once in class. At the end of the day they will exit around the back of the school.

P1, P2, P3 will finish at 2:00pm

P4, P5, P6, P7 will finish at 3:00pm

The Department of Education in its guidance has stated that at arrival and collection times parents should remain on or outside the school grounds, social distancing remains in place as a key mitigation to virus transmission. All adults visiting the school site should wear a face covering.

This year children will be able to bring a school bag with them. We ask that they bring their individual stationery pack on the first day, in a labelled plastic wallet and that it remains in school. Please label all items of your child's uniform.

School dinners will be available from Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September at a cost of £2.60 per day. Applications for Free School Meals/Uniform Grants are available on line <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants>.

Snack is provided to the children from P1, P2 & P3 at a cost of £2:00 per week.

Milk can be ordered at the beginning of each term. P4-P7 should bring water and a healthy snack.

On P.E days the children should attend school wearing their P.E uniform.

Healthy Kidz afterschool club will resume the week beginning the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Should your child appear unwell or display any of the symptoms of Covid-19 they should not be sent to school.

We are looking forward to welcoming you back and hope you and your family have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Una McAlinden

# EDUCATION RESTART



**EVERYONE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN KEEPING OUR SCHOOLS SAFE AND HELPING TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.**

## **EVERYONE SHOULD CONTINUE TO:**

- ✔ Wash hands regularly
- ✔ Cover coughs and sneezes
- ✔ Wear a face covering where necessary
- ✔ Practise social distancing
- ✔ Follow the latest public health advice

## **WHAT SHOULD I NOT DO?**

- ✔ **Don't** send your child to school if they have COVID-19 symptoms or if they have been identified as a close contact
- ✔ **Don't** allow your child to use public transport unless you have no alternative
- ✔ **Don't** gather at the school entrance/gate
- ✔ **Don't** allow your child to share food/drinks with friends

## **WHAT SHOULD I DO?**

- ✔ **Do** let the school know if your child will be absent due to COVID-19 symptoms
- ✔ **Do** follow the advice given if you have been contacted by the PHA Contact Tracing Service
- ✔ **Do** encourage your child to socially distance if it is possible
- ✔ **Do** encourage good hand hygiene
- ✔ **Do** use alternative transport if you can
- ✔ **Do** walk or cycle if it's safe and appropriate to do so
- ✔ **Do** use park and ride or other car-parking facilities (if available), and walk the remainder of the journey to school
- ✔ **Do** avoid parking close to or at the school gates
- ✔ **Do** encourage the use of face coverings on school transport and in post-primary schools/ settings
- ✔ **Do** encourage and supervise your child to carry out a COVID-19 test if they have been invited to participate

**FURTHER INFORMATION, INCLUDING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS, CAN BE FOUND ON THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S WEBSITE AT: [WWW.EDUCATION-NI.GOV.UK](http://WWW.EDUCATION-NI.GOV.UK)**