



## ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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20<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you and your family have had an enjoyable break over the summer and are keeping well. Everyone in St Mary's P.S is looking forward to having the children back to school this year. The Department of Education has issued Revised Guidance and we are continuing to follow this. All children will return to school on a full time basis in September, with social distancing and implementing a 'protective bubble' strategy. School will open on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August for the 'Induction Week' that will allow the children to familiarise themselves with the new routines.

- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August P2, P4, P7
- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August P2, P4, P6, P7
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August P1, P3, P5, P6, P7
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August P1, P3, P5, P7
- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August P1/2, P2/3, P4, P5, P6/7 (All Pupils)
- Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August School Closed – Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September (All Pupils)

The Department of Education in its guidance has stated that **at arrival and collection times parents should remain on or outside the school grounds** adhering to social distancing rules and prevent the spread of the virus.

Staggered arrival times will be in place. You may drop your children at the school gate between 9.00am and 9.15am. Staff will be available to accept your children and adults are asked to respect social distancing rules.

We need to introduce a one-way system for arrival and departure. All children will access the school building in the morning through the assembly hall and use the sanitizing stations. They will go straight to their 'protective bubble' which is their classroom, wash their hands and begin their school day. Throughout the day they will wash their hands frequently. While in school, the children will follow a 'one-way system' that will be clearly signed. At home time they will leave through the back exit, around the school and out by the side gate. The staggered times are in place to help with PHA advice of Social Distancing.

- P1/P2 1.50pm
- P2/P3 2.00pm
- P4 2.50pm
- P5 2.55pm
- P6/P7 3.00pm

We would ask parents to take their child's temperature prior to coming to school and NOT to send their child if they have a high temperature, fever, cough or other symptoms.

Pupils should only bring a lunch box/bag which is named and which can be cleaned every day, a water bottle clearly named which can be cleaned every day and a coat, no school bags are permitted.

Any child that requires Medication e.g. inhalers should bring them into school on the first day back, these will be kept in school from that point onwards in a sealed bag.

School dinners will be available from Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, until then, please send a packed lunch for your child for the days they are in school during the week of the 24<sup>th</sup> August. The applications for Free School Meals/Uniform Grants are available at [www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-school-uniform-allowance](http://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-school-uniform-allowance). We will be operating staggered breaks and lunch times so the children remain in their 'protective bubble.'

The school bus is available from the 1<sup>st</sup> September and children are encouraged to wear a mask when using this form of transport.

Should your child appear unwell or display any of the symptoms of Covid-19 they should not be sent to school. The Minister for Education's letter to Parents which is attached will reinforce this message.

If families have been abroad and return from one of the listed countries that require them to self-isolate on return, they must follow the appropriate PHA guidance and not send their child to school for the full 14 days. All absences must be explained by a written note.

The Department of Education has requested children participate fully in their P.E Curriculum. On the P.E days, the children should come to school in their P.E uniform of blue jumper, blue shorts or black bottoms, white polo top and trainers.

Arrangements for the children in Primary 2 has been emailed to parents today.

Confirmation for the Primary 7 children who are moving onto Post Primary School will be on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September in St Mary's Church at 7.00pm. The children will be wearing their own clothes. A rehearsal has been arranged for them on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August and details have been sent out through the Class Dojo.

For the children who are waiting to make their First Communion, it will be celebrated on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 11am in St Mary's Church.

I very much look forward to seeing you all as we begin our 'New School Day'.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs U McAlinden  
Principal