

**ST. PATRICK’S PRIMARY SCHOOL**

 **12 Ballymacbredan Road, Magheralin, Craigavon. BT67 OQU**

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**Principal: Mrs. M. McGrath. BA(QTS), PQHSH, DipPD.**

**‘Together we learn, together we grow, developing our future, wherever we go!’**

1st July 2020

Dear Parents

As stated in previous correspondence, I write to update you of further information received from EA Advisors.

This week, guidance has been clarified surrounding cleaning measures in our school, where we only have one staff member responsible for this duty. We have been advised that subject to a high standard of cleaning practice being maintained, that normal cleaning activity should be sufficient and that hand hygiene is the most effective method of combatting the spread of the virus.

We have been advised, at this point, that deep cleaning practices will be applied in the occurrence of a confirmed Covid19 case. The protective bubbles mechanism will hopefully contain the measures needed to be taken within school, whereby possibly only one class/group would be affected in any confirmed Covid19 case.

**With this updated advice, we are delighted to state that all of our children will be in school on a 5 day week basis.**

I thank all of our parents who responded to my previous letter requesting information on your preferred day. With this updated information, this is no longer required.

We will require however that on each Friday all children go home at 2pm. This allows all teaching staff to have their allocated time to plan and prepare for lessons. (Under normal circumstances, staff members teach in other classes in the afternoons to release other teachers for their planning and preparation time.) This is in line with DE advice on approaches to timetabling, to minimize the number and frequency of physical interactions between individuals (staff and pupils).

We cannot, at this point, offer Breakfast and Afterschool club in Term 1. However, this is still under review. Schools are waiting on further clarification of the guidance in relation to the crossover of protective bubbles/groups in schools.

As we wait on this clarification, it would be helpful if parents could indicate their needs from September. This will help support school Risk Assessments and our planning, should we be able to proceed. We will inform you at the earliest opportunity if advice allows us to operate these clubs safely.

Please email the school by Friday 10th July with the following information.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Name of child/ren** | **Class from September**  | **Please indicate which day/s you would require this service.** Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri |
| Breakfast ClubFrom 8am |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Drop off club from 8:30am |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Afterschool Club2-3pm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Afterschool Club3-4pm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Afterschool Club4-5pm (4:30pm on Friday) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

I take this opportunity to thank staff for their hard work throughout this very unusual and difficult period. I also thank you as parents for your patience and understanding during this time. We have greatly appreciated the time you have spent supporting your child with the printed packs, liaising with teachers and helping your child to get to know Google classroom.

We all look very much forward to welcoming your children back to school. I wish you all a very peaceful and restful summer break.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M. McGrath

Principal