

**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 March 2021

Dear Parents

Schools have been advised by the Department of Education that there will be a return to full time teaching for some pupils. This advice refers to children in our Reception, P1, P2 and P3 classes only. Subsequent to this announcement please note the arrangements, at the bottom of this letter, which are subject to change depending on any further Department of Education directive.

The Minister of Education, Mr Peter Weir, has stated that his objective ‘… remains to have a full return of all pupils to face to face teaching in school as soon as practicably possible after the Easter break but…this has to be balanced against the public health position.’

Therefore, at this point schools do not have any confirmation as to when all classes will return to face to face teaching.

For those classes that are returning to school we ask that parents use our one-way system around the school and adhere to strict social distancing regulations when dropping off and collecting children.

Children in classes Reception to Primary 3 should enter and exit school using the bottom (P2/3) and left side (Reception/P1) doors as they did during the first term.

We ask that our returning pupils wear their PE uniform to school each day and bring a packed lunch and bottle of water. We ask that no other items are brought to school.

All schools have been advised that breakfast clubs and after school activities should remain paused until at least 12 April or until advised otherwise.

School will remain open for children of Key workers throughout this time, including the period when children in Reception to P3 classes return to face to face teaching, where no alternative arrangements can be made. You must however email the school office by Friday at 12 noon of each week, to inform us of your supervision requirements for the following week.

Children in the supervision group will enter and exit school via the front main door.

**PHA Guidance**

In line with Covid 19 Public Health Agency Guidance, your child **should not attend school** if he/she displays any symptoms of the virus, including

• **a high temperature**
• **a new, continuous cough**
• **anosmia** - the loss or a change in your normal sense of smell (it can also affect your sense of taste)

Should your child become symptomatic throughout the school day you will be telephoned and asked take your child home from school immediately. Symptomatic children will be taken to a separate room in school, where they shall wait for you to pick them up. Please ensure that you have arrangements in place for your child to be picked up from school promptly should they become unwell.

All symptomatic pupils and staff are expected to follow PHA advice and obtain a test for COVID-19.

We will continue to use our Text Message service, our School Website and the Schools NI App to communicate further.

As a school we understand the difficulties each family are facing and we share your frustration. If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s class teacher or the school office.

May God and St Patrick continue to keep us all safe.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M. McGrath

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| **Week beginning Monday 8th March** | Reception, P1, P2 and P3 face to face teachingP4 to P7 - Use of Home Learning packs and continuation of Remote Learning |
| **Week beginning Monday 15th March** | Reception, P1, P2 and P3 face to face teachingP4 to P7 - Use of Home Learning packs and continuation of Remote LearningCLOSED for St Patrick’s Day 17th March(The Staff Development Day originally planned for Tuesday 16th March will now be moved to a date in June, of which you will be advised of in due course) |
| **Week beginning Monday 22nd March** | WHOLE SCHOOL Remote Learning |
| **Week beginning Monday 29th March** | WHOLE SCHOOL Remote LearningSchool will be closed to ALL children from Wednesday 31st March until Friday 9th April |
| **Week beginning Monday 12th April** | Reception, P1, P2 and P3 face to face teachingP4 to P7 - Use of Home Learning packs and continuation of Remote Learning |