

**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!’**

18th August 2020

Dear Parents

This update information sheet aims to bring together information to confirm our school reopening arrangements for the new school year.

**Start Dates**

Primary 7 children will return to school on a full time basis from Monday 24th August.

Primary 2 to Primary 6 children will return to school on a full time basis from Tuesday 1st September.

Reception Class and Primary 1 children will have staggered start dates which were previously posted out.

During the school day, classes will only interact with children and staff in their ‘bubble’.

\*School will not open on Monday 31st for the August Bank Holiday.

Each Friday all children will go home at 2pm.

**Lunch/dinner**

School dinners will only be available, initially, for those pupils who are entitled to a free school meal. All other children must bring a packed lunch to school. Free school meals will not be available until Tuesday 1st September. Children will eat their meal/lunch in their classrooms.

Please ensure that your child brings a healthy snack to school for their morning break.

Please also ensure that your child brings their own labelled water bottle to school, as water fountains will be unavailable.

We are a Nut Free school. Please consider this as you pack healthy snacks and lunches.

**Uniform**

All children should wear the school PE uniform each day. Recommended footwear is Velcro strapped trainers, if children are unable to tie their own lace.

**Hygiene Measures**

We ask that you supply your child with their own packets of tissues that can be kept in their tray/wallet in school.

We will have hand sanitizing stations at the door of each classroom and at the entry points in school. We will ask that your child uses these as they enter and exit the classroom in the morning and afternoon.

Regular handwashing routines will be established throughout the school day for all classes.

**Social Distancing**

To support social distancing, we will be operating a one way system around the school for drop off and pick up.

Parents are encouraged to drop older children off in the school car park where they will make their way around to the playground, using the left hand side of the school. They will be met in the playground by staff and escorted to their lines.

Parents/carers may wish to escort younger children to the playground. Children will have markings guiding them to their lines and adults will have markings guiding them around the outside of the school building.

Children will be picked up from their playground lines in the afternoon by parent/carers, using the one way system.

We ask that adults only enter the school building if an appointment has been made and only via the main school door.

**School Bags**

Pupils must not bring a bag to school. All pens, pencils etc., will be provided in an individual tray/wallet for your child to use in school.

We ask that your child brings a coat to school every day as we aim to bring the children outside each day into the fresh air.

**Breakfast/Drop Off Club**

Breakfast and Drop Off club will reopen from Tuesday 1st September. At this point, only those parents who have indicated that they wish for their child to attend may avail of these clubs. These parents will have received a text confirming their place.

If you wish for your child to attend you must inform the office with at least 1 full weeks’ notice.

You must also receive confirmation from the office confirming your child’s attendance.

**Afterschool Club**

At this point we are currently unable to reopen the After School Clubs. This will be reviewed at the end of October.

**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 continuous cough and a loss of taste or smell. Please ensure that you have arrangements in place for your child to be picked up from school promptly should they become unwell.

We all look forward to welcoming your children back to school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M. McGrath

Principal