

## Back to School

Dear parents

I am delighted that we are able to welcome everyone back to a full school return for September; we have really missed having our pupils in the building.

Whilst there will be many changes to school life as we know it, we are committed to providing a welcoming and relaxed environment for our pupils. On restart we will initially be focussing on a reconnect to school to ensure everyone settles back happily. We are well aware that some pupils will be uber-keen to get back in, whilst others may have concerns about the virus, the new teacher, the work...

Much of what had been communicated at the start of July remains relevant, though we have recently received more detailed guidance from DENI. There is a lot of information contained in this bulletin and I would ask that you please take the time to read it.

### Start dates

All pupils will return full-time, with some phased transitions (P1, SCU 1 & SCU2).

Who	Start Date	Notes
P7	Mon 24 August	Half day all first week (9.00am – 12 noon) <i>Monday 31 August – bank holiday</i> Full day from Tues 1 Sept onwards
P2-P6	Thurs 27 August	Half day Thurs 27 & Fri 28 Aug <i>Monday 31 August – bank holiday</i> Full day from Tues 1 Sept onwards
P1	From Thurs 27 August	Info on phased transition has been communicated <i>See below</i> Half days until end of September <i>Monday 31 August – bank holiday</i>
SCU1 & 2	From Tues 1 September	Info on phased transition has been communicated <i>Monday 31 August – bank holiday</i>

### P1 Start Date Information

P1 parents will have been informed which group your child is in by email at the start of July.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 <i>24 August</i>	-	-	-	Green Group	Blue Group
Week 2 <i>31 August</i>	<b>Bank holiday</b>	Yellow Group	Red Group	Green & Blue	Yellow & Red
Week 3 <i>7 September</i>	All groups	All groups	All groups	All groups	All groups

### Bubbles

It has been agreed by the Executive that social distancing between pupils is not necessary, instead 'protective bubbles' should be used as far as is practicable. This means that each class becomes a bubble who work, play and eat together. We will be operating staggered break and lunch sessions to enable us to keep classes in their bubbles in the playground.

19/08/20

## Back to School

Social distancing of 2m will remain in place between adults and as far as possible between adults and pupils.

### Staggered Start & Finish times

In order to aid movement in and out of school and limit the inevitable bottleneck around the pedestrian gate we will operate staggered drop off and pick up times.

There will not be supervision in the playground before school starts. We would ask that your child goes straight to their line on arrival, just in time for the teacher to bring them in at their allocated start time. We will be using our various outside doors to safely manage transition times, pupils will be accompanied into school by a member of staff.

Class	Start Time	Finish Time
P1	9.00 am	12.00 pm (2.00 pm from 28 September)
P2	8.50 am	1.50 pm
P3	9.00 am	2.30 pm (Mon, Tues, Wed) /2.00 pm (Thurs & Fri)
P4	8.50 am	2.50 pm (Mon-Thurs) /1.50 pm (Fri)
P5	9.00 am	3.00 pm
P6	8.50 am	2.50 pm
P7	9.00 am	3.00 pm
SCU1	8.50 – 9.00 am	2.00 pm
SCU2	8.50 – 9.00 am	3.00 pm

We would ask that our older pupils are not accompanied by parents into the playground in the mornings and are encouraged to walk to the car or home in the afternoons (as appropriate). You are aware that parking is available at the Presbyterian Church, the library and the shopping centre. Our patrolman can see pupils safely across Church Road.

Please ensure the pedestrian gate is left clear for people to enter and exit safely with social distancing in mind.

Parents will not be permitted in the school building except by prior appointment. If your child is late for school, please see them to the front door where a member of staff will escort them to class.

### Lunches

All pupils will eat in their classrooms. Initially only packed lunches will be available from the canteen and will be delivered to the classrooms. We hope to extend that to hot meals once we get our systems running smoothly.

### Resources

Pupils will not need a schoolbag as we want to limit 'stuff' travelling from home to school and vice versa. Each child will be given their own individual supply of basic resources to keep in school. Teachers may request additional items relevant to their year groups to be supplied for school use.

PE will be outside (weather permitting) so gym shoes will not initially be required.

Lunch boxes are permitted; please ensure they are wiped down before sending to school each day.

### Homework

## **Back to School**

With the exception of P7, we will not be issuing homework for the first 2 weeks of September. Most homework thereon will be electronic using techniques similar to those used during lockdown. Again this is to limit transmission of the virus.

### **School Uniform**

As was communicated in July, school uniform will be worn as per usual.

### **Other mitigation strategies**

- Hand hygiene - Pupils will wash their hands on arrival, before eating and after returning to the classroom from the playground.
- There will be increased attention to wiping surfaces, contact points and resources used by pupils throughout the school day.
- Reinforcement of respiratory hygiene – Catch it, Bin it, Kill it. Coughing into elbow, etc.
- Windows will be open to help ventilation.
- There will be no large communal events – assembly, dinners in hall, etc.
- Pupils will not sit directly facing each other, as far as classroom space allows

### **Travel Abroad**

If you managed to get abroad on holiday in August, it is essential that your child observes the necessary quarantine advice before return to school.

### **COVID-19 Symptoms**

It is most important that you do not send your child to school if they or anyone in your household displays any of the following symptoms:

*Temperature*

*Persistent cough*

*Loss of taste or smell*

We will take the temperature (using a non-contact thermometer) of any child falling unwell in school. We will follow all DENI/PHA procedures for when any child or adult present with symptoms in school.

### **To conclude**

Well done for making it to the end of this lengthy bulletin. I firmly believe children need to be back at school for their social, academic and mental well-being. We need to take the COVID-19 guidance seriously and sensibly and work together to ensure we can provide the safest and happiest environment for our wonderful pupils and staff to return to.

We can't wait to get back to teaching and look forward to welcoming the pupils from next week.



Barbara Preston