

## March Update

Dear parents

It has been lovely to have the P1-P3 pupils back in school, seeing their smiley faces in the playground just makes my day. We are now delighted to begin preparation for the P4-P7 pupils return on Monday 22 March.

### Staggered Starts and Finishes

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

We would ask that your child enters the playground and goes straight to their class line no earlier than 5 minutes before start time. We will continue to use our various outside doors to safely manage transition times.

| Class | Start Time     | Finish Time Normally                            | Finish Time Friday 26 March |
|-------|----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| P1    | 9.00 am        | 2.00 pm   | 11.50 am                    |
| P2    | 8.50 am        | 1.50 pm   | 11.40 am                    |
| P3    | 9.00 am        | 2.30 pm (Mon, Tues, Wed) /2.00 pm (Thurs & Fri) | 11.50 am                    |
| P4    | 8.50 am        | 2.50 pm (Mon-Thurs) /1.50 pm (Fri)              | 11.40 am                    |
| P5    | 9.00 am        | 3.00 pm   | 12.00 pm                    |
| P6    | 8.50 am        | 2.50 pm   | 11.50 am                    |
| P7    | 9.00 am        | 3.00 pm   | 12.00 pm                    |
| SCU1  | 8.50 – 9.00 am | 2.00 pm   | 11.40 – 11.50 am            |
| SCU2  | 8.50 – 9.00 am | 3.00 pm   | 11.40 – 11.50 am            |

Older pupils should not be 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. Parents are not permitted to park in the school grounds.

Please ensure the pedestrian gate is left clear for people to enter and exit safely with social distancing in mind. DENI has requested that parents please wear masks when in school grounds.

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.

### Staff News

We were delighted to have not only a lockdown wedding, but a lockdown wedding between two members of staff. A first for Carryduff Primary. Mr Jones and Miss Steinheimer tied the knot last week.

The good news didn't stop there, Mr Blundell welcomed a beautiful baby boy into the world this week.

### Lunches

School lunches will be available for all pupils next week. Those pupils entitled to Free School Meals will receive them in school as home payments will stop. Please bear with any changes we have to

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make to the menu, the Executive did not give enough warning of a full return to school to allow food orders to be placed. We will communicate any changes to you.

Lunches will continue to be delivered to classrooms.

### **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*

If your child does display any symptoms, you need to arrange a test for him/her or isolate for 10 days. A child can return to school immediately following a negative test result, provided he/she has been free of a temperature for 48 hours.

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.

If your child is otherwise unwell and off school, please let the class teacher know via Seesaw/Dojo before sending them back.

### **Rapid Lateral Flow Tests**

You may have heard on the news that staff in primary schools will be receiving these tests after Easter. There are no plans to test primary school pupils.

### **Covid-19 Mitigations**

It remains as important as ever to continue with all mitigations as per term 1. The vast majority of our school community (staff and parents) is too young for vaccinations at this point in time. These include:

- Class bubbles will continue to operate
- Hand hygiene - Pupils will wash their hands on arrival, before eating and after returning to the classroom from the playground.
- There will be continued 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.
- From P4 upwards, pupils will not sit directly facing each other, as far as classroom space allows.
- Pupils only bring a wipeable lunchbox and school folder (when necessary) into school.
- PE will be conducted outdoors.

### **Holidays**

Holidays for this year will continue as planned.

## March Update

We will share the holiday planner for next year (2021/22) with you shortly. EA is still working on it!

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Easter</b>       | 29 March – 9 April inclusive<br><i>Half day on Friday 26 March</i> |
| <b>Bank Holiday</b> | 3 & 4 May  |
| <b>Bank Holiday</b> | 31 May   |

## Moving Ahead

We look forward to having our pupils back in school with us until the end of June. The most important thing we can do is provide a safe and happy environment in which learning can continue. We will avoid talk of 'catch-up' around our pupils. It is our job to adapt the curriculum to meet the situation we find ourselves in; a global pandemic.

Our staff sincerely thanks you for the engagement and interest you have taken in your child's education this term. We are well aware how difficult this has been for many of you. Hopefully your stint as primary school teacher is over for ever!

Wishing you all a happy Easter. I'm looking forward to being allowed to have a picnic with friends and getting out for a row in Strangford Lough.

Yours sincerely

Barbara Preston

Principal