

## School Restart Information

Dear parents

Firstly, I want to thank you sincerely for your tremendous support throughout this very difficult period. The teaching staff, in particular, has really appreciated it. It has certainly been the most challenging of my career.

Secondly, hats off to you! What a job you ended up with, I bet becoming a teacher wasn't on the bucket list for most of you. I'm sure you will be glad of a break from home-learning (maybe more so than the kids).

### School Restart Information

Based on recent guidance from DENI and PHA, we foresee two possible scenarios for our restart next term. Whichever scenario unfolds, we will follow the 2020-21 School Holiday Calendar, issued earlier this year and available on our School website and school app. We will follow the advice from DENI and PHA regarding safeguarding and well-being, hygiene procedures, staffing, class organisation, pupil numbers and social distancing between pupils. We are relatively optimistic that all pupils will be back full-time in September (Scenario B).

#### Scenario A

*What the current advice allows us to do considering our classroom and class sizes and maintaining 1m social distance for pupils.*

This scenario is far from ideal and is complicated. Not all of the pupils are in school at any one time and home-learning will continue for most pupils 3 days per week. The plan only begins to run to schedule from Tues 1 September.

Parents of P1, P3, P4, P5 & P6 pupils will be notified soon via ClassDojo/Seesaw which group your child is in. SCU1, SCU2 & P1 will receive dates for a phased transition.

| Who                                     | When                 | Start Date   | Notes  |
|---|----------------------|--|--|
| <b>Group 1</b><br>(P1, P3, P4, P5 & P6) | Monday & Tuesday     | P3-P6 Thurs 27 August (half day) & Tues 1 September (full day)<br><i>P1 – from Thurs 27 Aug, phased transition info will be provided</i><br><i>Monday 31 August – bank holiday</i> | Half class return<br>Siblings will be accommodated in the same group             |
| <b>Group 2</b><br>(P1, P3, P4, P5 & P6) | Wednesday & Thursday | Wed 2 & Thurs 3 September (full days)<br><i>P1- From Thurs 27 Aug phased transition info will be provided</i>  | Half class return<br>Siblings will be accommodated in the same group             |
|   | Friday               |  | Staff prepare home-learning materials for P1, P3, P4, P5 & P6                    |
| <b>P7</b>                               | Monday – Friday      | 24 Aug (half days first week, full day from 1 Sept onwards)<br><i>Monday 31 August – bank holiday</i>  | Full return<br>P7 pupils will use assembly hall for classroom                    |
| <b>SCU1 &amp; 2</b>                     | Monday - Friday      | From Tues 1 September<br><i>Phased transition info will be provided</i>  | Class size allows for phased, full return with 1m social distancing in classroom |
| <b>P2</b>                               | Monday - Friday      | Thurs 27 & Fri 28 August (half days)<br><i>Monday 31 August – bank holiday</i><br>Full day from 1 Sept onwards   | Class size allows for full return with 1m social distancing in classroom         |

## School Restart Information

### Scenario B

*No social distancing for pupils, instead maintaining a protective bubble. Maintaining social distancing for adults.*

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<br><i>Monday 31 August – bank holiday</i><br>Full day from Tues 1 Sept onwards            |
| P2-P6    | Thurs 27 August       | Half day Thurs 27 & Fri 28 Aug<br><i>Monday 31 August – bank holiday</i><br>Full day from Tues 1 Sept onwards     |
| P1       | From Thurs 27 August  | Info on phased transition to follow<br>Half days until end of September<br><i>Monday 31 August – bank holiday</i> |
| SCU1 & 2 | From Tues 1 September | Info on phased transition to follow<br><i>Monday 31 August – bank holiday</i>                                     |

### Strange New World

Regardless of whichever scenario, some aspects of school will have to change due to COVID-19 guidance.

- Pupils will remain in group/class protective bubbles for the whole day in school, including during break times.
- Parents will not be allowed in the school building in order to reduce footfall and potential spread of the virus.
- After school clubs will not run during term 1.
- Pupils will eat packed lunches in their classroom. Our canteen can provide packed lunches for Free School Meals.
- Hand hygiene will be an important part of the school day, as will reminding children to Catch it, Bin it, Kill it.
- Pupils will not be allowed to bring in anything from home except a packed lunch – no school bags.
- There will be staggered drop off and collection times to avoid congestion and build-up of people at the school gate.
- Full school uniform will be worn.

**Uniform** - Uniform will be available to purchase from **Tues 18 -Thurs 20 August 2020** between **10 am and 12 pm**.

We will communicate further information to you in August, but appreciate that what is contained in this newsheet is probably enough to get your head around for now. I have no doubt that this pandemic will continue to throw challenges at us and we will endeavour to continue to communicate decisions with you in a timely manner. If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the school on [info@carryduffps.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@carryduffps.belfast.ni.sch.uk)

The first days back will see a focus on a reconnect to school and the pastoral needs of the pupils. We will always place the pupils needs front and centre.

Have a good summer, whatever form it may take.

Yours sincerely



Barbara Preston