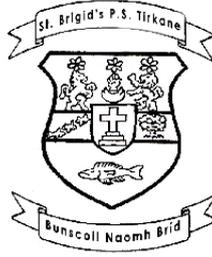


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19th August 2020

Dear Parents

In line with the most recent guidance from DENI regarding School Restart the following arrangements have been agreed for our school.

The information in this document will provide you with an overview of our “return to school” plans. Here is a summary of current arrangements:

- Whole school return to school
- Protective Bubble system in operation where possible
- Staggered times for start and end of each day
- Staggered break and lunch times
- School meals/ packed lunches provided in classrooms
- There will be no 2 o'clock Club or after school clubs until further notice. This will be kept under review.

Protective Bubbles

We will be operating a “Protective Bubble” system where possible from Year 1 to Year 7 within the school setting. Each protective bubble will consist of 1 or more classes.

There will be staggered starting and finishing times. Break and lunch times will also be staggered throughout the school day.

School meals will be delivered to and eaten within each classroom and each bubble will have designated toilet facilities.

In-school Hygiene

Pupils will be supervised washing their hands regularly throughout the school day. In addition, entrance /exit doors and classrooms will be equipped with hand sanitiser, paper towels and cleaning products that the class teachers and classroom assistants will use on surfaces throughout the day.

Bi-lingual signage is displayed throughout the school buildings highlighting the need for careful handwashing and ‘Catch It, Bin It, Kill It’ when sneezing. Each pupil is required to bring a small packet of paper tissues.

A box of tissues will be provided in each classroom.

Suspected case of COVID-19

Should a child present with any of the following three symptoms, they will be removed from the ‘Bubble’ and taken directly to the designated isolation room where they will be supervised until a parent collects them.

The three symptoms are:

- Elevated temperature
- New and continuous cough
- Change in taste/ smell.

After each use of the isolation room, a deep clean will take place.

Equipment Required

On the first school day each child will be given writing and colouring resources, exercise books, rubbers, glue sticks etc. These will be kept in named plastic folders or box file and they will stay in school. There will be no sharing of items.

The only items that should be brought to school will be an easily wiped lunch box (if not having school meals), a coat and a water bottle if required. There will be **no school bags**, PE bags or any other items required until further notice.

Arrival at school for pupils not using school transport

Staggered drop off as follows:

8.40 a.m. Year 6/7 pupils and siblings

8.50 a.m. Year 4/5 pupils and siblings

9.00 a.m. Year 2/3 pupils and siblings

9.10 a.m. Year 1 (**separate arrangements during the first week for Year 1 pupils**)

Parents should drop and drive where possible to help minimise congestion outside the school gates. Staff wearing Hi-Viz vests will be available to assist and direct pupils to their designated entrance points.

Parents will not be permitted to enter the school building.

Home time

Staggered collection as follows for parents collecting pupils from school. Parents are asked to remain in their car until their child's designated slot.

12 noon P1/R1 for the month of September.

2.50 p.m. P3/4/5 Mrs Cassidy and R3 Múinteoir Ciara

2.55 p.m. R4 Múinteoir Aisling and R6/7 Múinteoir Laurene

3.00 p.m. P5/6/7 Mrs Russell/ Mrs Downey and R5/6 Múinteoir Gemma

Parents using the internal pathway from An Carn should adhere to the recommended 2-metre social distancing.

Once they have collected their child, parents should leave the school immediately.

Paying for school meals

School Meals service will provide a **sandwich/baguette lunch only** for the first two weeks of term. Hot food will be available on a Friday. Menu will be made available on the school website as soon as possible.

In order to minimise the risk of viral infection through handling of money we would ask parents to put the exact amount of money to pay for school meals in a sealed envelope with the amount of money contained clearly marked on the envelope. The school will not be able to give change to the children.

Please note that toast will no longer be available during the morning break. Pupils should bring a healthy snack for this break.

School Priorities for the new term

- To secure the safe return of all pupils and staff.
- To put mitigating measures in place to minimise the spread of viral infection.
- To ensure pupils have good emotional health and well-being.
- To support pupils to be motivated to learn and engage in their learning.
- To re-engage children in their learning at a point which takes into account the gaps in learning which may have been developed since they left school in March.

In order for us to achieve these priorities and get the school up and running again in as safe a manner as possible, we need the total support of the whole school community.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Patricia Mc Master
Principal