

7/8/2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for all your support over the last term. Many of our families have been affected by COVID-19. We hope and trust you are all well and that you have had the opportunity to have a break over the Summer.

The situation is very fluid and advice changes regularly. Guidance will be released next Wednesday or Thursday, however given that we have now been informed that there will be no specific distance between children, that the class is to be treated as a bubble, we are now in a better position to provide you with some further information for our return to school. All children will be returning to school 5 days a week. This will begin with shortened days in order to ensure good transition. Each class will be treated as a Bubble and children will remain in class groups throughout the school day.

**Start Dates and Drop off/Pick up arrangements**

Nursery and Year 1 pupils will begin the Induction process with an individual meeting to see the classroom and the teacher during the week of the 24<sup>th</sup> August (this has already been emailed out to parents, if you have missed it please email [ligonielpriamary@hotmail.com](mailto:ligonielpriamary@hotmail.com)).

Year 7 have already received information (this is on the school website).

Year 2-6 will each have an orientation session to learn the new routines during the week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> August. Pupils will be met in the school playground by the class teacher. Unfortunately at this time parents will not be able to enter the school building. Should you need to speak with the class teacher please phone the school office and we can arrange a call home. 02890391502  
Children should bring a water bottle, waterproof coat and small snack to this session.

Year 6 – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 9.00-10.30

Year 4 – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 11.00-12.30

Year 3 – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 9.00-10.30

Year 2 – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 11.00-12.30

Year 5 – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 9.00-10.30

To avoid overcrowding, new drop off and pick up times will be put in place. It is crucial to Health and Safety that all parents adhere to these guidelines. Please ensure that anyone who is collecting your child knows the new routines.

All Year 2-6 pupils will begin on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September – Start times and finish times will vary for all pupils. Packed lunch will be available for those who have confirmation of free school meals from **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September** and will go home with the pupils.

Children with surnames beginning with A-G will arrive at 8.40 and leave at 12.10.  
Children with surnames beginning with H-N will arrive at 8.50 and leave at 12.20.  
Children with surnames beginning with O-Z will arrive at 9.00 and leave at 12.30.

**\*\* If your children have different surnames choose a group and let the school know which group it will be. \*\***

#### Week beginning Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September

Children with surnames beginning with A-G will arrive at 8.40 and leave at 1.40.  
Children with surnames beginning with H-N will arrive at 8.50 and leave at 1.50.  
Children with surnames beginning with O-Z will arrive at 9.00 and leave at 2.00.

- We plan to allow parents to collect from the school playground however we ask that parents stay on the other side of the playground gate to wait for your child to be dismissed by their teacher. This will be reviewed regularly.
- Parents should be prompt and remember to follow social distance guidance. Teachers will also endeavour to be on time but please be patient as we help your children to learn our new routines.

#### **Before coming to school with your child**

- Check your child's temperature and ensure that they are well enough to attend – remember the 48 hour rule if a child has been sick or has diarrhoea. It is inevitable that given children have been in Lockdown for a long period of time they are likely to be more susceptible to illness and we would like to keep this to a minimum.
- Make sure your children come to school with clean hands and in clean uniform.
- Parents **MUST** inform the school, if their child has a new continuous cough, high temperature or has a loss of taste of smell. If your child has any of these symptoms they should not attend school and the family should adhere to PHA guidance. If someone in the family has these symptoms current guidance is that the whole family should quarantine. Please contact the school to keep us informed.

### **Strange New World**

- Pupils will remain in class bubbles throughout the school day, this includes outside play.
- Parents will not be allowed into the school building, to reduce footfall and the potential spread of the virus.
- After school clubs will not take place during Term 1
- Breakfast club will not run until we have managed to get procedures in place. We will send home correspondence during the first week of school to ascertain demand and then hope to reopen breakfast club in class bubbles.
- Hand hygiene will be an important part of the school day as we “Catch it, Bin it, Kill it”
- Pupils will not be able to bring in anything from home apart from a good waterproof coat, packed lunch in washable/disposable containers, water bottle and healthy morning snack. Please NO school bags.
- Full school uniform will be worn.
- Children will have designated seats in their classroom and desks will be arranged in line with DE guidance.
- Toys and learning resources that will be used in classrooms will be washed each day and books will be quarantined for 72 hours before being used again.
- Windows will be opened as much as possible to ensure good ventilation.
- Staff may wear PPE throughout the school day. We have purchased visors for those staff who may have medical conditions and for those who will be assisting with First Aid. We will be explaining PPE to the children on the transition mornings but would appreciate it if you could also discuss this with your children before starting school. Further guidance is likely to come out about this next week so this may change. Some staff may also wear masks.
- Children will play in designated spaces in the school. Children must remain in their bubble at all times. Times will be staggered to ensure safe distancing can be maintained.
- If your child presents with a high temperature we will contact you in order to pick up your child immediately. Until an adult arrives they will be kept in a quarantine room.

These are only some of the changes that you will see when we return in August and all are subject to review. The staff plan to make videos for the classes to explain these changes in a child friendly way when we return after the Summer holidays.

We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school even in this very strange “New Normal” which will take us all a while to get used to.

I know many of you may be anxious about your children returning to school, however we would like to assure you of our continued care and commitment to you the families of Ligoniel Primary School and Glenbank Nursery School.

Yours sincerely

L Stewart