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St. Mary's Primary School (Lisbuoy)

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Wednesday 25th August 2021

Principal: Mrs. M. Martin

Return to School

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all keeping well. As you all know, this continues to be a time of great uncertainty for schools. At St. Mary's we are keen to see the return of all our pupils at the beginning of the new school year. Staff have been working on plans for the return to school, in line with DE guidance, issued by the new Education Minister Michelle McIlveen. Following this guidance, we feel it necessary to maintain quite a few of the regulations we had in place from last year, to ensure everyone's safety; we will continue to monitor and review these regularly.

The school day will continue to see changes in daily routines for staff, pupils and parents, to facilitate children returning to school. You will appreciate that this is necessary to adhere to DE regulations and for the safety and wellbeing of everyone.

LIFE THREATENING ALLERGY

We have a child with a life threatening 'Pea', Mango and Coconut allergy in school. For this reason, we ask that parents avoid sending peas, sugarsnap peas, chickpeas, mango, coconut and items with pea, mango & coconut extract into school for lunch. We greatly appreciate your support with this.

Drop off & Pickup

We ask that parents operate a one-way system for dropping off and picking up children. Please approach school from Carland Hill to allow your child/children to exit/enter the car safely at the school gate (*P1 parents may walk their children to the door during September*). Pupils will go straight to their classrooms for hand washing & sanitation. For pick up, please wait patiently in the traffic queue from Carland hill and we will release your child/children through the gate directly to your car. We ask that parents remain in their cars at all times. Please try to avoid turning above the school and coming back into the flow of the one-way traffic. If possible, continue to the end of the Lisnagowan Road and take left towards Donaghmore or right onto the Cookstown Road. We are aware that this may lengthen your journey slightly but it will ease congestion at the school gate, particularly on wet days. Children may arrive at school from 8.40am. Please be aware that pupils are not insured to be on the school premises before 8.40am in the morning. We ask that all children are in school by 8.55am for the school day.

Uniform

As we begin this new school year, could we please ask that *all* children wear their full school uniform to school everyday, school PE kit on PE days.

Boys: yellow polo shirt & navy sweatshirt with school crest, navy trousers or plain navy jogging bottoms

Girls: yellow polo shirt & navy sweatshirt with school crest, navy skirt/pinafore, navy trousers or plain navy jogging bottoms.

Please avoid 'skinnies', leggings and branded/striped jogging bottoms!

Caring, Sharing, Learning Together



The school sports' kit is available to buy from the school office. It consists of a school jersey, shorts, and socks. Children may also wear a white round neck t-shirt and navy shorts for PE.

School bags may be brought to school this year; we would appreciate wipeable schoolbags & lunch boxes. Please cover your child/ren's homework books with clear contact so that they are wipeable too.

Supplies

All children should bring their own stationary/resources to school on the first day back; pencils, colouring pencils/markers, rubber, sharpener, glue stick, scissors, whiteboard markers, ruler (30cm ruler P3-7). P7 pupils will require a compass, protractor and black ball point pens.

Children should bring their own clearly labelled water bottle, hand wash & sanitiser (pump bottle if possible please) and tissues.

These items will all remain in school and should be replenished as required.

Snack

We will continue to provide snack in school; toast, crackers, cheese and a choice of milk or water daily.

Lunch/Dinners

School dinners will be available from Wednesday 1st September from a set menu, priced £2.60.

Dinner: Chicken goujons, dipping sauces, mashed potato.

Dessert: Fresh fruit selection & fresh yoghurt

Term One

Term one will begin on **Tuesday 31st August for P1 pupils only 9.30-11.30am (Induction Day).**

All other pupils will begin on Wednesday 1st September, full time.

P1-2: 9.00am - 2.00pm

P3-7: 9.00am - 3.00pm (Mon-Thurs.)

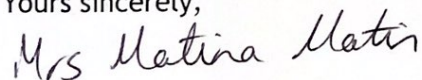
All pupils will go home at 2.00pm on Fridays.

We appreciate that most children will be looking forward to returning to school, however there will be some who may find this experience daunting. Please talk to your child/ren to prepare them for their school day. Please remind them of the need for regular 20 second hand washing, coughing into a tissue or their elbow, 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'!

By following the guidance, hopefully we can protect our pupils, staff, parents and the wider community of St. Mary's. This remains a top priority for the Board of Governors and management of the school.

Thank you for your ongoing support; it's greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Martina Martin
Principal