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St. Mary's Primary School (Lisbuoy)

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Principal: Mrs. M. Martin

Friday 7th August 2020

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 Restart Programme, although these have and continue to change in line with DE guidance, which following Education Minister Peter Weir's announcement yesterday, further detailed guidance should be available to us by Thursday 13th August. We will communicate further guidance during W/b Monday 17th August.

The 'New' school day will see changes in daily routines for staff, pupils and parents, to facilitate children returning to school in their protective 'class bubbles'. You will appreciate that these changes are necessary to adhere to DE regulations and for the safety and wellbeing of everyone.

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 the car safely at the school. Pupils will go straight to their classrooms for temperature checks and hand washing. 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. If this system is unsuccessful, we will have to consider staggered drop off & pick up times, instead.

Uniform

We ask that a clean, full school uniform should be worn each day (available from Kelly's Drapery, Dungannon). This may also include the school PE strip which is available to purchase from the school office, as PE kits will not be kept in school at this time. Please ensure your child's uniform is clearly marked. School bags should not be brought to school.

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, also, bring their own clearly labelled water bottle, hand sanitiser and tissues. These items will all remain in school and should be replenished as required.

Caring, Sharing, Learning Together



Snack

We will continue to provide snack in school; which will initially be toast and a choice of milk or water daily.

Lunch/Dinners

School dinners will be available from Tuesday 1st September from a set menu (no choices). During August lunch will be required.

Induction Days

P7 pupils & vulnerable pupils will return to school from Monday 24th August 9.00am - 2.00pm.

All other pupils will have an Induction day that week as follows.

Tuesday 25th August: P5-6 pupils

Wednesday 26th August: P3-4 pupils

Thursday 27th August: P1-2 pupils

This will allow staff to trial our 'New' school day routines and make changes as necessary. It will also give us the opportunity to focus on the pastoral care and wellbeing of our pupils.

School will be **closed** Monday 31st August for the Bank Holiday and reopen Tuesday 1st September for all pupils, full time.

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 'new' school day, as classroom layouts and school routines will be different to what they may have known previously. Please remind them of the need for regular 20 second hand washing, temperature checks, 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,

Martina Martin

Mrs Martina Martin
Principal