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St. Mary's Primary School (Lisbuoy)

www.stmaryslisbuoy.com

16 Lisnagowan Road, Carland, Dungannon, County Tyrone BT703LH

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Principal: Mrs. M. Martin

Wednesday 19th August 2020

Return to School

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all keeping well. The staff of St. Mary's are looking forward to seeing everyone next week. As you are aware, the 'New' school day will see changes in our daily routines, to facilitate children returning to school in their protective 'class bubbles'. These changes are necessary to adhere to DE regulations and for the safety and wellbeing of everyone. As a staff, we will do our utmost to protect and keep everyone as safe as possible, but as you will appreciate, it will be impossible to keep children apart at all times, so please be mindful of this. I have included a reminder of important information and some updated information for the return to school, below.

Induction Days

P7 pupils & vulnerable pupils will return to school from Monday 24th August.

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

All children will go home at 2.00pm this week and require a packed lunch. Snack will be provided.

School will be closed Monday 31st August for the Bank Holiday and reopen Tuesday 1st September for all pupils, full time. An updated holiday list is attached.

Drop off & Pickup

We ask that parents operate a one-way system for dropping off (between 8.40 - 9.10am) and picking up children (P1-2 pupils from 2.00pm and P3-7 pupils between 2.55-3.15pm). Please approach school from Carland Hill to allow your child/children to exit the car safely. Pupils will go straight to their classrooms for temperature checks and hand washing. Good hygiene habits will be encouraged throughout the day. Please do not send your child/ren to school if they are unwell! For pick up, please wait patiently in the traffic queue from Carland hill and we will release your child/children through the gates directly to your car, as quickly as possible. 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. **To allow staff to deep clean equipment and resources, in line with EA & PHA guidance, all pupils should be collected between 2.00-2.20pm on Fridays.** This will be reviewed regularly. Parents who wish their child to walk home must provide written permission. Please ensure that anyone who is collecting your child/ren is aware of the drop off & pick up arrangements.

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. On PE days (Monday P5-6; Tuesday P3-4; Thursday P7; Friday P1-2), children should wear their PE gear (school sports strip or white round neck t-shirt & navy shorts) with plain navy jogging bottoms and school sweatshirt. PE kits will not be kept in school at this time. School bags are not required until further notice. Children are asked to bring a coat, (preferably with a hood) to school every day to allow for outdoor play and waiting outside at hometime.

Caring, Sharing, Learning Together



Supplies

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

Homework

There will be no homework for the first few weeks, to allow the children to settle back into their school routine. Homework will be mainly online, through Google Classroom (details to follow). Reading books will be sent home once the teachers have grouped the children.

Snack

We will continue to provide snack in school; which will initially be toast and a choice of milk or water daily. £1 per week. Payable by the end of the week

Lunch/Dinners

School dinners will be available from Tuesday 1st September from a set menu (attached) £2.60. All dinner money must be paid either daily or by the end of the week - NO exceptions, due to EA regulations. Please try where possible to send in the correct money in a sealed envelope. During August, lunch will be required. Lunchboxes (wipeable please) should be clearly labelled and will be sanitised on arrival each morning. We ask that parents sanitise lunchboxes each evening too. Lunches and dinners will be served in the classrooms (12.00-12.30pm) to protect each class bubble. Teachers and classroom assistants will supervise pupils during lunchtime. The school will continue to operate their Healthy Lunches, so please adhere to this. Healthy Eating Policy attached.

'School Money' envelopes can be purchased from school (£4.00). The use of envelopes greatly aids the efficient collection and recording of monies sent to school.

School Uniform & Meals Allowance

Anyone eligible for school uniform or free school meals should go to:
<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

Break/lunch time

The school will operate staggered break and lunch play times to ensure children remain in their class bubbles.

Breaktime:	P1-4: 10.15-10.30am;	P5-7: 10.30-10.45am.
Lunchtime:	P5-7: 12.30-12.45pm;	P1-4: 12.45-1.00pm

Afterschool Clubs

Afterschool clubs will not be available initially, but we will reassess this at midterm.

Visitors

Visitors/Parents will be limited and only permitted when absolutely necessary. All visitors/parents will be required to report to the school office to sign in and sanitise their hands. Please telephone or email if you need to speak to a member of staff.

Data Collection Form

Please complete the Data Collection Form enclosed and return to school in a sealed envelope, with your child, next week. If your phone number, email or contacts change, please inform school immediately, as these are necessary to enable communication with you. Communication will also be through our school website and Facebook Page. Please download the 'Schools NI' app and select our school, as this will allow you to be notified of communications on the school website.

Medical Needs

Please send inhalers/medication and a medication plan (contact your child's doctor/nurse) into school as soon as possible, clearly labelled.

PPE

Following DE guidance, PPE is not essential in school, but will be available to staff if they require it. If you wish your child to wear a face covering, please inform the school prior to their start date.

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. This will ensure that the transition back to school is as smooth as possible. 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.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

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

Yours sincerely,

Martina Martin

Mrs Martina Martin
Principal

At St. Mary's, we value our parents' opinions, views and concerns. Please comment below, if you have any concerns on the return to school. Many thanks in advance.

Parent/Guardian Signature: