

Ballynure Primary School

Newsletter

18 March 2021

Website Ballynureps.org

Dear Parent/Carer

From Monday 22 March P1 – P7 will all be back in school. Our P1- P3 pupils have all settled back to the routines which we had in place in term one and we look forward to welcoming our P4 – P7 pupils on Monday. Key worker pupils have been in school since the beginning of January with all the school staff and they are looking forward to seeing their friends next week too. Thank you again for your continuing support and good wishes, this is very much appreciated by me and my staff. I and my staff have continued to work relentlessly since March 2020 in order to provide and facilitate the best learning opportunities within the safest environment that we could and I know this has been appreciated by many. Teachers have not been vaccinated, nor are there plans to do so. Please observe all Covid-19 safety and hygiene measures as we come to the end of term two and journey into term three and take further steps towards normality.

As we are still in the pandemic, all the mitigations which were in place in term one for all pupils and staff and term two for key worker pupils and staff will continue. We ask for your support regarding strict observation of social distancing and the wearing of masks at arrival and departure times. We really do not want to have pupils and/or staff fall ill with Covid-19 and have to enter a period of isolation, so everyone has their part to play in ensuring the safety of our entire school community.

It is our intention to Restart once again, with a friendly, welcoming, warm reception for the children while ensuring good behaviour as this will be essential for learning to take place. We understand that some pupils will find separation and the return to school difficult following such a long period at home. We will re-establish good relationships immediately, employing a holistic, child-centred approach - calm and focusing on the positives – making pupils feel happy, safe and cared for. We will listen and deal with pupils individually; create a nurturing, inclusive environment; be encouraging and mark positively; celebrating achievements. We want children to enjoy their Restart and their learning. We will gently and age-appropriately teach/remind the children about the new health, hygiene and safety rules and procedures. Our initial focus as always will be on pupils' emotional well-being. If we have any concerns about your child, we will contact you. We would hope to have parent interviews in term 3 once pupils are settled and the teacher has had the opportunity to assess their progress holistically.

At arrival and departure times, please arrive promptly, drop off/collect your child(ren) and depart swiftly, thus making room for the next class. Your child's class teacher will be at the school gate at the arrival time below. Please DO NOT send your child in before this time as the teacher may not be in their classroom.

Week beginning 22 March 2021				
Teacher	Room	Arrival Time Mon-Fri	Departure Time Mon-Thurs	Departure Time Friday 26 March <i>No lunches bring break only</i>
Mrs Woods – P1	1	9.15	2.00	12.00
Mrs Allen - P2/3	2	9.12	2.05	12.05
Mrs Patrick – P3/4	3	9.09	2.10	12.10
Mrs Galashan - P5	mobile	9.06	2.15	12.15
Mrs McIlroy – P6	assembly hall	9.03	2.20	12.20
Mrs Warke – P7	5	9.00	2.25	12.25

- School bus will operate as normal next week including Friday

Please read the following information carefully:

- Please inform both me and the class teacher if your child has experienced particular trauma during lockdown about which we should be aware by email before your child returns to school if we do not already know about this.
- All communication must be by email – no notes please. Staff email addresses: edoherty598@c2kni.net, rnugent346@c2kni.net, rmcilroy480@c2kni.net, rgalashan637@c2kni.net, mpatrick753@c2kni.net, smcnair162@c2kni.net, rwoods@718@c2kni.net
- Please send all correspondence to Mrs Doherty relating to Mrs Livings class until further notice. Please send email directly to the class teacher if the message relates to a class matter, sickness or absence; general administration messages and queries to Mrs Nugent other queries to me.
We convey to Mrs Livings every good wish as she commences maternity leave on the 22nd March.
- We have been using the 'Protective Bubble' (PB) strategy in school and will continue to do so. Pupils will remain in their PB all day, every day. They will enter and exit school in their PB. They will eat break and lunch in their PB and go outside when it is dry for break time and lunch time play in their PB.
- Teachers will tell you which books to bring with you on Monday via Seesaw. (All reading books and text books should be wiped with an anti-bacterial wipe before being returned).
- Seesaw and Collaborative Ultra will cease on Friday 19 March at 3.00 pm.
- Pupils who are isolating and well enough to do school work will receive work directly from their class teacher – mostly by email and occasionally as a mini-pack for collection.
- There will be no gathering in the playgrounds before school starts (no mixing of protective bubbles).
- There will be no breakfast club. There is no hall and it would mean mixing Protective Bubbles.
- All pupils should bring a packed lunch and a break time snack.
- We have re-configured the classrooms and desk positions. Book cases, cupboards, soft play areas, carpets, fabric toys etc. remain removed from classrooms.
- The assembly hall will be used as a classroom for P6. This means there will be no dining hall or PE hall. PE will take place outside when on good weather days.
- The water fountain remains taped off – please send a filled water bottle each day with your child.
- Footsteps indicating direction of travel inside and outside the school building will continue to be used.
- The DEN will be the 'Isolation Room'. If required any child displaying signs of Covid-19 will wait in the DEN with me. I will be wearing PPE. The collection point will be from the door beside the DEN – this will be signposted on the DEN window. On entering the school grounds, the DEN is to the left of the main entrance. Thankfully no child has ever been isolated and staff have also remained Covid-free.
- If any infant child has a toileting accident, the classroom assistant or teacher tending to the child will wear PPE.
- If any member of staff has to be close to a child then they will wear a visor, apron and gloves.
- If first aid needs to be administered, the member of staff treating the child will wear PPE.
- Children should NOT wear PPE.
- A hand sanitising dispenser is in the entrance hall. All visitors must adhere to the hand sanitising instructions in the entrance hall.
- Parents should only visit the school in an emergency.
- If you have two or more children it is likely each child will have a different entry and exit time. Please move your car away from the front of the school and park away from the school to enable others to come and go; come back for the next pick up time. Your cooperation in this is essential. Park and stride.
- The Church Road gate will not be in use until we are back to old normal.
- Pupils must come to school with washed hands. There will be frequent handwashing throughout the day.
- Pupils in P1-P3 should NOT bring a school bag, PE kit or wellies.
- P4-P7 should bring their schoolbag. Each class teacher will tell their own class on which days they should bring trainers for PE outside.
- Pupils should adhere to our uniform policy as near to as possible at this time.
- There will be no written homework next week. Written homework will commence after the Easter holidays as per our homework policy – one Literacy and one Maths per week.
- Pupils should not bring any other toys or objects from home into school.
- Pupils will all require a rigid plastic lunch box for their personal stationery, a packet of tissues and a small hand sanitiser should you wish to include one that you know that your child has no allergy to. The box will sit on their desk and can be easily disinfected, if necessary. The stationery boxes will go home each Friday for a good wash, the

stationery should be wiped with anti-bacterial wipes. Each teacher will put a reminder about this on Seesaw this week for their own class.

- Pupils should also bring their food lunch box. (No carbonated drinks, no glass bottles or containers, no flasks with hot food. Remind your child that he/she cannot share their food or drink with others. Remind the youngest children how to open packets and remove lids.
- Classroom windows remain open for ventilation – if your child is feeling cold please provide additional layers of clothing.

Coronavirus – Covid-19

- ✓ Symptomatic children MUST NOT be sent to school.
- ✓ Symptomatic children will be sent home immediately – please make sure we have up-to- date contact numbers.
- ✓ If parents/carers who are unwell with Covid-19 your children will have to self-isolate for 10 days. (as per advice at time of writing)
- ✓ Full testing will be available to staff, parents and pupils showing symptoms at test centres.
- ✓ Public health advice will always prevail over the aspirational planning within this letter and its attachments.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please remember to complete your Census www.census.gov.uk/ni

Parentline NI

Parentline NI is running free and confidential one to one sessions with Parent Support Officer Kathy. The aim of these sessions is to support any parent/carer who is concerned about their child's separation anxieties or reluctance to return to school. Sessions run every Thursday in March and April. For more information or to book a place call free 0808 8020 400

*The school has no means of endorsing the activities or events in Community News.
Parents are advised to ensure any activity is appropriate for their child.*

E Doherty
Principal

