



Dromore Road Primary School,  
Warrenpoint  
Upper Dromore Road  
Warrenpoint  
County Down  
BT34 3JH

Dear Parent

I hope you are all well and enjoying a well-deserved summer break.

As we approach the start of term, I am sure many of you are experiencing a range of emotions about your child returning to school and I trust you found Mr Weir's letter, available to read under the Parents tab on our school website, informative and reassuring. Unfortunately, the impact of the virus continues to change the most fundamental aspects of how we live and how we operate as a school and while we cannot predict what the COVID-19 pandemic will look like this Autumn, as a school, we plan to implement a number of enhanced health and safety measures, based on guidance from local health and government authorities to reduce the risk to our whole school community. The health and safety of the children and adults in our schools is paramount and it is important that anyone displaying any Covid-19 symptoms **must not** attend school.

The aim of this letter is to keep you as fully informed as possible regarding our arrangement for reopening and changes that will be necessary in protecting our community.

#### **Staff and class arrangements**

P1 Mrs McGrath/Mrs McKee

P2/3 Mrs English

P4/5 Mrs Newell/ Mrs McAteer

P6/7 Mrs O.Graham/ Mrs K.Graham

#### **Induction**

- From Monday 24 August until Friday 28 August school will be open from 9am – 12 noon for all Primary 7 pupils. During the week, our focus will be on the pastoral needs of our pupils and there will be an emphasis on their health and well-being as they readjust to school. It is important that we help all our children reconnect with school and help them settle back into the new school day and the changes to their new school environment.
- We also hope to phase each class in during the week, as this will give them the chance to adjust to being back to school. We appreciate that some pupils may still be on holiday at this time and we would remind parents, that if abroad, pupils follow the quarantine advice on their return.

Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• P1 Induction day (Times will be communicated to individual parents on Monday)</li><li>• SEN Pupils (Times will be communicated to individual parents on Monday)</li></ul>
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> August	P6 8.50-12 noon P3 9.00-12.15pm P5 9.10-12.30pm
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> August	P2 9.00-12.15pm P4 9.10-12.30pm

Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> August	<p>All P2-7</p> <p>Arrival - Pupils should arrive between 8.45am and 9am as normal. All bubbles will be supervised in their classroom until 9am. If arriving by car, a member of staff will be in the playground to meet pupils being dropped off in the car park and pupils will be directed straight to their class to wash hands. If arriving by foot, pedestrians must <b><u>not use</u></b> the main car park gate entrance. Please drop your child at the pedestrian entrance where a member of staff will be at the front door to meet your child on arrival.</p> <p>Departure</p> <p>Mrs English's class 11.55am</p> <p>Mrs Newell's class 12 noon</p> <p>Mrs Graham's class 12.05pm</p> <p>Exit Point - If being picked up by car, pupils will leave by the side entrance. Pedestrians will leave by the front door.</p> <p><i>Parents should not enter the school buildings during these times unless required</i></p>
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> September	School closed for bank holiday
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	<p>P1 9.15am-12 noon</p> <p>Arrival</p> <p>P2-7 (8.45-9am)</p> <p>Departure</p> <p>P2- 2pm finish</p> <p>P3- 2.40pm finish</p> <p>P4/5 2.45pm finish</p> <p>P6/7 2.50pm finish</p> <p>We review these arrangements during the week and review as necessary.</p>

## **Hygiene**

Enhanced hygiene and cleaning measures will be in place. All cleaning will be carried out in accordance with PHA Guidance. Regular cleaning of door handles, desk tops etc. will take place throughout the day. Equipment and resources that are difficult to clean have will be removed from the classrooms.

The guidance provided by DE in many ways reinforces practices we have all become accustomed to. It promotes regular handwashing on arrival at schools and throughout the school day and the application of the "catch it, bin it, kill it" principles. All schools will be reinforcing the good practice that you are undertaking at home, to educate your children in the necessary measures for minimising the spread of the virus, e.g. 'Catch it, Bin It, Kill It', thorough handwashing, maintaining social distance etc. we trust that this good practice will continue.

Pupils are encouraged to bring their own sanitiser and handkies for convenience during the day. These should be brought on their first day and left in school.

Hand sanitisers will be available at all entrances and exits to the school, appropriate signage will be displayed to promote good hygiene.

☐ Sharing of stationery items, traditionally supplied by the school, will also be discouraged when we return to school. We would ask that your child brings a fully stocked, easily wiped, pencil case with them on their first day back. This will remain in school, in their dedicated tray and be exclusively for your child's use.

☐ Guidance recommends that pupils should wear clean uniform to school each day. For 2020/21 school logoed tracksuit and polo shirt should be purchased and black trainers. No PE kit is needed.

☐ The DE 'Return to School' publication also indicated that schools should consider discouraging or prohibiting children from bringing anything from home and, at the end of each school day, limiting/preventing shared resources from being taken home. With this in mind, pupils should not bring school bags when we initially return.

### **Social Distancing/ Bubbles**

☐ Social distancing measures will be in place throughout the school. Public health guidance with respect to social distancing of 2 metres (2m) will remain in place between adults and as far as possible between adults and pupils.

☐ A 'protective bubble' strategy will also be promoted as a key mitigating action, as we know that our younger children will find it particularly difficult to socially distance during playtime. Relaxation of social distancing requirements also means that we plan to accommodate children in their own classroom, where space allows.

☐ All spaces in school will be reorganised to encourage as much social distancing as is practical. Classroom space will be maximised through the removal of some furniture and tables will be arranged so that the children are not sit directly opposite facing each other.

☐ Classes will act as social bubbles. Each class will go straight to their room on arrival and will stay in this bubble throughout the day. Thus, reducing contact throughout the school with other children. Staggered breaks and lunches will also operate.

☐ Arrival to and from school will be staggered so that social distancing guidance can be adhered to and bubbles have minimum contact.

☐ Appropriate signage will be displayed to promote social distancing and a one-way system will be operational internally.

### **Face Coverings**

☐ Face coverings will not generally be recommended for routine use in school, though is acceptable. Some staff, particularly those mixing with more than one bubble, may use face coverings or visors during the routine school day.

☐ All visitors entering the school building also need to wear a face covering.

### **What will happen if my child starts to display symptoms of Covid-19 while in school?**

☐ If your child becomes unwell while in school with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature / fever or anosmia (a loss or a change in your normal sense of smell, which can also affect your sense of taste) in an educational setting they must be sent home and will be advised to follow the guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection. A child awaiting collection will be moved, if possible, to a ventilated room. Appropriate adult supervision will be provided as required

☐ PHA guidance under the Test and Trace and Protect programme will be applied for all staff or pupils in contact with someone who tests positive for Covid-19.

### **School Meals**

Hot meals will be available from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September and the menu will be communicated through the school website. When preparing your child's break or packed lunches, please think about using disposable packaging or alternatively use a plastic lunchbox that can be washed, with soapy water, on a daily basis.

### **Money**

☑Cash handling obviously carries additional risks and gloves will be worn in school when handling cash. Our procedures in school will remain the same at present and all money must go in a sealed envelope to the classroom teacher. Please clearly note on the outside the amount inside and what the money is for, e.g. dinners, 321 Club etc. As all money has to be counted both in the classroom and the office for safeguarding purposes, we would ask that money is only sent to school on a Monday.

☑EA Guidance discourages parents from entering the school building and I would encourage you that if you need an update on money owed please phone or email Mrs McParland during office hours 028 4175 2656 or gmcparland236@c2kni.net.

### **After schools and 321 Club**

☑We hope to be able to offer 321 Club to our P2/3 pupils. This will not start initially and I will update you next week with regards the arrangements.

☑Initially, there will be no afterschool clubs, however we appreciate that this is a valued service and is vital for our pupils' health and well-being. We aim to keep this under review.

### **Home/School Link**

☑Unfortunately EA guidance suggests that parents should avoid entering the school building. However, we very much want to maintain the close home school link that exists, so we encourage parents to use the following forms of contact if they wish to discuss anything with their class teacher: speak to a member of staff supervising or telephone/email the office who will pass on the message or arrange for the teacher to contact you.

☑ School letters will be communicated by the school website. Please download the free Schools NI app onto your phone to keep up to date with the latest news, events and updates.

These measures have been formulated using the most current up to date advice from DE but this could change over the coming weeks as the situation remains fluid. We will continue to review the situation in the coming weeks.

We are very much looking forward to all the children returning to school and whilst our school day may have changed, our aim will be to continue to ensure that school is a happy, positive place. In the meantime, if you have any further questions or concerns please feel free to contact me next week in school.

Yours faithfully

S. McGrath

(Principal)