



Dromore Road Primary School

Upper Dromore Road
Warrenpoint
County Down
BT34 3JH

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

I hope you and your family are keeping safe and well. It has been a challenging 2nd term for everyone, and as lockdown eases over the coming months it will be nice to return to a sense of normality again. I am delighted to inform you that P4-P7 are now able to return to school from Monday 22nd March until the Easter break on Friday 26th March and we are looking forward to having all the pupils back. As we settle into the school routine next week our main priority will be reconnection of friendships and the emotional wellbeing of our children.

I would like to begin by thanking you for the excellent job you have done with home-schooling your children. I understand how difficult this has been for many of you as you attempt to balance your work and other commitments, whilst supporting your children with their schoolwork. You have done a great job! I'd also like to place on record again my thanks to all staff in the school. Teaching and non-teaching staff have worked diligently over the last few months to provide quality remote learning experiences as well as supervising children in school and many other important tasks. Finally, a massive well done to all the pupils for continuing to work so hard at home, the teachers have been so impressed by your efforts!

Just a few reminders as we return:

- Pupils may enter the school building independently from 8.45-9.00am. They will go straight to class to be greeted by their teacher and classroom assistants. As in term 1, the school community will wash hands regularly during the day but pupils are also encouraged to bring a supply of sanitizer, wipes, pocket hankies etc. for their personal use during the day.
- As before, break time and lunch time will be staggered and children will remain in bubbles to reduce the spread of transmission within our school community.
- Hot meals will be available to all children from Monday 22nd March. Please refer to the school website for the March menu (should appear on school website on Friday once we receive the updated menu). Any pupil bringing in a break and/or a packed lunch must use either a wipeable lunch box or a disposable bag.
- It is important that if your child or any member of your household is displaying coronavirus symptoms that you do not attend school. You must follow PHA guidance, self-isolate and get a test. Remember to keep the school updated. If your child is going to be off school for any reason, it is vital to inform the school immediately, regardless of the reason for being off. If you would like work to be sent home via Seesaw, please say when contacting the school.



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- As in term 1, pupils should wear their school tracksuit (fingers crossed they fit!). We would encourage parents not to purchase summer dresses for Term 3 as they aren't practical for climbing in. Please remember to send a coat next week.
- On Monday 22nd, all P4-7 pupils will need to bring their latest home learning pack and their plastic wallet with their reading books, spelling book etc. School bags are still not required in school due to shortage of space in rooms.
- Just like the 1st term, homework will be completed through Seesaw. This will commence after Easter.
- Any pupil who had received a laptop or iPad from the school, must return this next week.
- DE as advised all extra activities should be paused until after Easter so 321 Club will not operate this week. Once it is safe to do so and clearance is given through the Department of Education and health agencies, we will restart of 321 Club in term 3. Hopefully progress can also be made for getting our other afterschool activities up and running during the 3rd term.
- We will also continue to operate staggered home times and would once again ask you to keep your social distance and take care at the school gates. Please also remember that DE recommends the use of face covering if you need to enter the school building and when on the school site.
- As previously communicated, we have taken the decision to move our Easter holidays so that we have a longer summer term. The pupils will finish after lunch on Friday and our Easter break will now run from Monday 29th March, with the pupils returning to school on Tuesday 13th April for Term 3. Please see the table below for this week's finishing times:

Monday 22 nd - Thursday 25 th		Friday 26 th March
P1	Finish at 1.30pm	1.30pm
P2	Finish at 2pm	1.20pm
P3	Mon/Tues 2.40pm Wed/Thurs 2pm	1.20pm
P4/5	2.45pm	1.25pm
P6/7	2.50pm	1.15pm

I look forward to seeing you all in the very near future.

Yours faithfully

Mrs S. McGrath (Principal)