**St Brigid’s PS**

**Castle Street**

**Ballymoney**

**BT53 6JX**

**Principal: Mr Kieran O’Neill**

**koneill580@c2kni.net**

**Tel: 028 2766 2664**

**Thursday, 20 August 2020**

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope that you and the children are all keeping well and enjoying the last few days of the summer holidays.

By now, I hope you will all have taken the time to read the information that was posted on the school website with regards to the reopening of the school. I apologise for the fact that there was a lot to take in but there was so much information to share with you.

I know that there are lots of anxieties and worries with regards to a return to school, but we have been working very hard behind the scenes here to have everything ready for the children. The teachers and assistants are ready to help support and care for the children as they integrate back into school.

On Monday 24 August only half of the children will return to school to help them get used to being back at school and the other half will attend on Tuesday 25 August for the same purpose. All the children will return on Wednesday 26 August. The school will have staggered arrival and departure times during next week. This information is included in the document on the school website.

All children are to bring a packed lunch to school next week and a break time snack. This should be in either a disposable bag or a lunch box that can be cleaned daily. The children can also bring a water bottle for class and a drink for lunch time. All items should be clearly labelled with your child’s name. A school bag will not be brought into school initially and we will inform you when a school bag will be needed. The equipment list provided can be sent into school on the first day and will remain in school thereafter. Please label all your child’s equipment.

The children will for the most part will be in class ‘bubbles’ throughout the school day and interaction/mixing with other classes will be restricted. The children may pass other children in corridors or when going to the toilet, however, this will be deemed low risk as the contact is not prolonged.

The arrival and departure routes are clearly marked and the children will proceed directly to their classroom. Temperatures will be checked at the entrances. Green route: Year 1,2 and CA. Red Route: Year 4,5 and CB. Blue route: Year 3,6, and 7. Parents are not permitted to enter the school. Arrival and departure should be via the chapel car park only. The only exception is for children who arrive by bus or taxi.

The school will not be open before 8.45 am. Please note the arrival and departure time for your child/children and stick rigorously to this. Adults must observe social distancing rules at all times.

If you need to share any information with the school, please contact via the school email address or telephone. Only make an appointment if necessary. Appointments will only be available after 930 am. Teachers will only be available for telephone appointments.

Please take the time before next week to talk to your child/children about good hand washing and the importance of not touching their eyes, face and mouth. Reinforce the need for good respiratory hygiene (catch it, bin it, kill it) and the importance of social distancing. In addition, please explain to the children that staff will regularly be wearing masks and visors during the day. Whilst it is not mandatory or healthy for younger children to wear masks in school for prolonged periods, if you wish for your child to wear a mask this will be respected. Please help your child to understand that other children may not be wearing a mask.

Any child who takes risks, acts in an unsafe manner, is unwilling to follow the school arrangements to prevent the spread of the virus will be sent home and will only be allowed to return to school if guarantees can be given with regards to behaviour.

If there is any doubt over your child’s health at any stage before school, please air on the side of caution and keep him/her at home. Any absence from school should be communicated immediately. Attendance at school is important, however, we do appreciate that the level of attendance this year may be lower than usual.

Any further questions please contact the school. We look forward to seeing the children again next week.

Finally, please follow the links below to complete the online Return to School Agreement for Parents and Pupils on or before Monday 24 August.

**Return to School Agreement – Parents** (click on the link)

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-yeCOETeDkaBkAVAK4mNqMjAn6Rw9FZFoJKRknI5evRURTdIWkozVDk1MDlFSTZCVlNVWEo1V1NBOC4u>

**Return to School Agreement – Pupils** (click on the link)

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-yeCOETeDkaBkAVAK4mNqMjAn6Rw9FZFoJKRknI5evRUM1dNNjBDQkhZTEw5NjVFMjk4U1owOUpTRC4u>

Take care and keep safe.

Yours sincerely

Kieran P O’Neill

Principal