**St Brigid’s PS**

**Castle Street**

**Ballymoney**

**BT53 6JX**

**Principal: Mr Kieran O’Neill**

**koneill580@c2kni.net**

**Tel: 028 2766 2664**

**Friday, 28 August 2020**

Dear Parents/Guardians

I would like to thank you all for your co-operation, support and kindness throughout the first week back. It has been so lovely to have the children back in school. All of the hard work in preparation for the return to school has paid off and we are really encouraged with the start that has been made so far. The children have adapted to the new routines really well and with your continued support the routines will become normal practice for the foreseeable future. We must guard against getting complacent and together we will work to ensure the school environment is a safe place for everyone.

**Week 2 Tuesday 1 September**

**School Closed on Monday 31 August: August Bank Holiday**

Please read the guidance already posted on the website with regards to Phase 2/Week 2.

Key points:

* Staggered arrival times will remain in place until further notice.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year Group | Departure Times |
| Year 2,3 & CA (including CB every Wednesday) | 2.00 pm |
| Year CB, 4, 5, 6 & 7 | 3.00 pm |
| Year 1 | 12.00 noon until Friday SeptemberMonday 28 September onwards 2.00 pm |

* **Departure Times:**
* **To alleviate congestion of adults at 3. 00 pm please spread out throughout the area designated for adults.**
* The departure times will be kept under review and congestion at 3.00 pm may lead to staggered departure times as well.
* **Family groups:**
* The eldest sibling identifies the **family arrival time** e.g. if the eldest child in the family is in Year 7 all the children in the family arrive at 9.00 am or if the eldest child in the family is in Year 6 all the children in the family will arrive at 8.45 am.
* **The school will not be open before 8.45 am.**
* Adults must observe social distancing rules at all times.

**School Dinners will commence on Tuesday 1 September**

* All children entitled to a FSM will receive a meal from this date.
* The school dinner menu will be available on the school website.
* Week 1/Strawberry Week will start on 1 September

**Paying for school dinners**

* Please send dinner money in to school in a small envelope
* The envelope should be clearly marked with the information below

Dinner Money Payment

Name:                         Class:

Week Beginning:  \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Tick Days Required:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| M | T | W | Th | F |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Amount Enclosed

|  |
| --- |
| £ |

* Dinner money preferably should be sent in weekly at the beginning of the week, with the days indicated and the **correct amount enclosed.**
* Daily dinner money should still be sent in an envelope clearly marked as above.
* If more than one child, please indicate all names and classes on the envelope.
* **Dinner Cost**

£2.60 per day or £13.00 per week

**Packed lunches**

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.

**Break Snacks and Milk**

* There will be no milk in Term 1
* Purchasing break time snacks is suspended until Halloween mid-term break initially.

**Class Bubbles**

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.

**Contact with the school**

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 9.30 am. Teachers will only be available for telephone appointments.

**Children who are feeling unwell**

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/daily.** Attendance at school is important, however, we do appreciate that the level of attendance this year may be lower than usual.

**Return to school agreement**

There has been a great response to this but as yet we still have some returns outstanding. Please click on the links below (you can find them on this letter on the school website) to complete the online Return to School Agreement for Parents and Pupils.

**Return to School Agreement – Parents** (visit school website and click on the link)

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

**Return to School Agreement – Pupils** (visit school website and click on the link)

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

**After School Clubs and Breakfast Clubs**

* Details about registering, signing the agreement and booking places are all on the school website.
* There is no facility for a casual drop in to any of the services.
* All places must be pre-booked in advance.
* **Places are available for childcare purposes only.**

**Exciting News!! A New Outdoor Sensory Area for Class A**

Class A are having a new enclosed, covered, sensory play area built over the next 3 to 4 weeks. The work will commence on Monday 31 of August. A compound for the work will be set up to protect the children. The work will see the creation of a temporary gate into the Foundation Playground and access to the school for Year 1, Year 2 and some Class A will continue to be through the FS Playground door. Apologies for the inconvenience at this time but this is exciting news for Class A.

**Pledge of support from St Vincent de Paul Ballymoney Branch**

SVP offers a confidential support service. SVP is willing to provide some support to the school to aid those that may be struggling to buy school uniforms this year.

If you are struggling either with uniforms or financially in general and could do with some help, **contact SVP on their helpline** (07860455549) and they will do what they can to help.

Contact for support with uniforms can also be made through the school.

**Holiday List 2020/21**

The holiday list for the year ahead will be published next week. We will inform you when it is on the school website.

As things are still subject to change by the Department of Education and the NI Executive, I will communicate any new information to you as soon as possible. Thank you again for your ongoing patience and understanding.

Take care and keep safe.

Yours sincerely

Kieran P O’Neill

Principal