**Information for Parents – Return to School 2023-24**

I hope that everyone is enjoying the summer break and that everyone is keeping safe and well.

**The school will reopen on Thursday 31 August for a half day (9.00 – 12 noon).**

This is to facilitate Child Protection and Safeguarding Training for all staff in the afternoon. There will be no Breakfast or After School Clubs on Thursday 31 August. School meals and transport will begin on Friday 1 September.

**A full school day for all children will commence on Friday 1 September. All after school facilities will be available from this day.**

All the new children in Year 1 and Class A will have been issued with a specific start date. If you cannot find this, please contact the school.

**Arrival Times:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year Group | Arrival |
| All children | Gates open 8.45 am  Children in playground until bell rings at 9.00 am |

**Departure Times:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year Group | Departure Times |
| Year 2, 3 & CA (including CB every Monday & Wednesday) | 2.00 pm |
| Year CB, 4, 5, 6 & 7 | 3.00 pm |
| Year 1 | 12.00 noon until Friday 23 September  Monday 26 September onwards 2.00 pm |

**Procedures for arrival and departure:**

* All arrivals and departures via the chapel car park and gate.

**Exceptions:** (arrival and departure via the front door)

* Children arriving by bus and taxi.
* Anyone requiring disabled access.
* Children in Class A & Class B (will be greeted by a member of staff from CA/CB)
* The children will go directly to the playground – with no stopping in toilets, cloakrooms or other classrooms.

**Teaching Structure 2022-23**

Year 1: Mrs McKay

Year 2: Mrs McShannock

Year 3: Mrs Hickey

Year 4: Mrs Kelly

Year 5: Mrs McMullan (4 days) / Miss Mooney (1 day)

Year 6: Ms McCormick

Year 7: Mrs Campbell

Class A: Mrs McIlroy (4 days) / Mrs Donaghy (1 day)

Class B: Mrs O’Mullan

**Bringing items to and from school:**

* **A school bag**.
* **Year 1 and 2 children do not need a school bag as book bags will be provided.**
* **Packed lunches** should be brought in a **lunch box**.
* Any **money** for dinners must be in a **small plastic bag or envelope** (clearly marked with the child’s name)
* A **water bottle** (clearly marked with your child’s name) **can be** brought into school. Please do not send in juice for the children to drink during the day – water only.
* A **list of personal resources** that each child will need to bring to school on the first day and then remain in school is listed on a table in this document. These items will be for the child’s own use to avoid sharing of resources.
* A coat may be worn into school.
* **School uniform** will be worn as normal – regular washing of school uniform will be important.
* **Footwear –** children should wear comfortable shoes/trainers as there will be no changing of footwear throughout the day. Younger children should have footwear with velcro fastenings as normal.

**Access to/Contacting school:**

Anyone requiring access to school or needing to contact the school must do so in the following ways:-

* Access to main office via front door only.
* Any urgent messages for the school or class teacher:

School phone No. 028 27662664

School email: [info@stbrigidsps.ballymoney.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stbrigidsps.ballymoney.ni.sch.uk)

School website contact form: http://www.stbrigidspsballymoney.com/contact-us

**School Year 2023/24 -** Resources required for personal use.

To help with knowing what to get for your child’s return to school please follow the list as a guide below.

[](https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/slredirect/picassoRedirect.html/ref=pa_sp_atf_aps_sr_pg1_1?ie=UTF8&adId=A045791537LD31GOBRA9W&url=/Children-Scissors-Preschool-Training-Scrapbooking/dp/B0897QJZKP/ref%3Dsr_1_3_sspa?dchild%3D1%26keywords%3Dchild%2Bfriendly%2Bscissors%26qid%3D1595325292%26sr%3D8-3-spons%26psc%3D1&qualifier=1595325292&id=5143572417582164&widgetName=sp_atf)

**Child Friendly Scissors**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year Group** | **Resources Required** |
| 1 & 2 | Colouring pencils (Pref. twistables no need to sharpen)  Crayons  A pencil case for colouring pencils and crayons  Glue Stick (Pritt)  Eraser  Child Friendly Scissors |
| 3, 4, 5 and CB | HB pencils  Colouring pencils (Pref. twistables no need to sharpen)  Crayons  A pencil case for colouring pencils and crayons  Glue Stick (Pritt)  Eraser  Child Friendly Scissors  30 cm ruler  Sharpener  Highlighters |
| Year 6 & 7 | Berol Handwriting pens – Blue/Black  Biro type pens – Blue/Black  HB pencils  Colouring pencils  Coloured Markers  Crayons  A pencil case for colouring pencils and crayons  Glue Stick (Pritt)  Eraser  Child Friendly Scissors  30 cm ruler  Sharpener  Highlighters  Post its  Protractor |

**What to do if your child is unwell:**

* If your child is unwell with any COVID-19 symptoms they **must not** be sent to school.

**Symptoms of coronavirus in children**

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

* a high temperature
* a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
* a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

**What to do if your child has symptoms**

If your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

* Follow the most up-to-date guidance and procedures as issued by the PHA: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-and-isolation-advice>
* **If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result, they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for three days after the day they took the test or from the day their symptoms started (whichever was earliest), if they can.**
* After three days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature, the risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults.
* Children and young people who usually go to school, college or childcare and who live with someone who has a positive coronavirus test result should continue to attend as normal.

**If your child is unwell with any other illness**

* If your child is unwell with any other illness, it is always best practice to keep the child at home.
* If your child becomes unwell in school, we will contact you to arrange for them to be picked up from school.
* A prompt pick up from school is necessary if your child is unwell.
* One adult should come to the school and enter via the main entrance.

**School Dinners will commence on Thursday 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 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 money may be paid weekly or monthly by bank transfer, please contact the school for details on how to do this.
* **Dinner Cost (may be subject to an increase by EA)**

£2.60 per day or £13.00 per week

**Packed lunches**

This should be in either a disposable bag or a lunch box. 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.

**Breakfast Club 8.00-8.45 am, 2-3 Club and Sunshine Club (3.00 – 5.30 pm)**

**Reopens on Thursday 1 September**

All contracts must be signed as usual. This information will be uploaded to the website.

All places for the 3-5.30 pm Sunshine Club must be pre-booked in advance on a monthly basis as usual.

Breakfast Club and the 2-3 pm ‘One Stop Club’ can be pre-booked or used as a drop in facility as well.

Bookings will commence during week beginning 28 August 2022.

Booking forms will be available on the school website and can be sent in to school or emailed.

**Cost 2023/24**

Breakfast Club £2.00 per day

2-3 Club £2.00 per day

Sunshine Club 3.00 – 5.30 pm £2.00 per hour/or part thereof

**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 2022/23**

The holiday list for the year ahead will also be uploaded to the school website.

**School re-opens on Thursday 31 August 2023 with an early closure on this day of 12 noon.**

**First Term: Thursday 31 August 2023 – Thursday 21st December 2023 [inclusive]**

First Day - Wednesday 31st August – School Closes 12 noon

Staff Development Day: TBC

Halloween - Monday 30th October – Friday 3rd November **[inclusive]**

Christmas - Friday 22nd December – Friday 5th January **[inclusive]**

**Second Term: Monday 8th January – Thursday 28th March 2024 [inclusive]**

Mid-Term Break - Monday 12th – Friday 16th February **[inclusive]**

St Patrick’s Day Holiday - Monday 18th March **[inclusive]**

Easter Break - Friday 29th March – Friday 5th April **[inclusive]**

**Third Term: Monday 8th April – Friday 28th June 2024 [inclusive]**

May Bank Holiday - Monday 6th May

May Holiday - Monday 27th May – Tuesday 28th May **[inclusive]**

I know there is a lot of information to take on board again, however, most of the information shared is much the same as how things were operating at the end of June.

Enjoy the rest of the summer break and we look forward to seeing you all again for the new school year.

Regards

Mr O’Neill