**St Brigid’s PS**

**Castle Street**

**Ballymoney**

**BT53 6JX**

**Principal: Mr Kieran O’Neill**

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**Tel: 028 2766 2664**

**Tuesday, 16 March 2021**

Dear Parents

To begin with, can I first of all take the opportunity to thank you all for the way in which you worked with us over the last 10 weeks to help the children with their remote learning. This partnership will mean that when we return to school the children should be able to engage with their learning fairly quickly.

Following on from the announcement today, with regards to Year 4-7 (including Class B) children returning to school on Monday 22 March, please read the following information carefully.

**Phase 2 Re-opening Monday 22 March**

**School open for all pupils Year 1-7, Class A & B**

**All protocols, routines and procedures in place from term 1 to remain in place.**

As in term 1, the children 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 emphasis, as the children return to school, will be on reassuring the children and parents and on supporting children to reconnect socially, build positive relationships and engage enthusiastically with learning as they return to the school environment.

**Arrival and Departure times**

**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.

**Arrival Times:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year Group | Arrival |
| Year 2, 3 & 6 | 8.45 am |
| Year CA, CB, 4, 5 & 7 | 9.00 am |
| Year 1 | 9.15 am |

**Departure Times:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year Group | Departure Times |
| Year 1,2,3 & CA  | 2.00 pm |
| Class B | 2.00 pm (Monday & Wednesday) |
| Class B | 3.00 pm Tuesday, Thursday & Friday) |
| Year 4-7 | 3.00 pm |

**Breakfast Club and After School Clubs (2-3 and Sunshine)**

* **We are currently unable to offer any of our after school clubs. It is hoped that we may be allowed to offer these again after Easter. If this changes before then we will let you know as soon as possible.**

**Procedures for arrival and departure:**

* All arrivals and departures via the chapel car park and gate.
* **All children should be accompanied by one adult only.**
* Please keep a social distance from others when arriving
* Do not congregate around the gate at arrival and departure times. Please wait in cars or well back to ensure social distancing.
* **All adults must wear a face covering if able to do so.**
* There will be no access into the school for parents from the main playground.
* A designated area will be in place for a parent/carer to drop children off and leave the playground.

**There will be three coloured routes that will lead to the entrance points:**

* Green route will lead the children from Year 1, 2 & CA into the Foundation Stage playground and entrance will be via the door leading into the school.
* **Year 1 and 2 arrivals – Parents can bring the children into the FS playground but must maintain social distancing at all times.**
* Red route will lead the children from Year 4, 5 & CB into the school via the door to the right hand side of the playground.
* Blue route will lead the children from Year 3, 6 & 7 into the school via the door to the left hand side of the playground
* A member of staff will be at each entrance point to welcome the children, take temperatures and ensure hand sanitising upon entry.

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

* Children arriving by bus and taxi.
* Anyone requiring disabled access.
* Children in Class A & Class B (arrival time 9.00 am and will be greeted by a member of staff from CA/CB)

**In school:**

* The children will go directly to their classroom – with no stopping in toilets, cloakrooms or other classrooms.
* The teachers will be in the classroom to welcome the children.
* Handwashing will be timetabled in the classroom upon arrival.
* The children will go to the cloakroom to hang up coats – organised by the class teacher.
* There will be no movement around the school to the office or other classrooms.

**Hand Hygiene:**

* Hand sanitiser will be provided at the chapel car park school gate for everyone entering the school grounds.
* The children will use hand sanitiser when entering the school.
* Hand sanitiser will also be available in every classroom.
* Hand washing will be timetabled throughout the school day in addition to hand sanitising.

**Bringing items to and from school:**

* **No school bag** will be required on a daily basis
* **Packed lunch** should be brought in a **lunch box that can be cleaned daily** or in a **disposable bag** (clearly marked with the child’s name) that will be put in the bin in school after use.
* 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 in to school
* Personal resources for each child may already be in school. If they were taken home, you may send them in with your child on the first day.
* **Please return any school reading materials or text books that were sent home with the learning packs**
* **Year 4-7 please bring in your learning packs that were issued this week.**
* A coat may be worn into school.
* There will be limited resources being sent home from school on a daily basis.
* The children will **not need** their **own hand sanitiser**.

**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 after 9.15 am (when all children are in class). This will be on a one in one out basis. Socially distanced waiting will be along the windows of the canteen. Hand sanitiser will be available at the door and a one-way system will be in operation.
* **Reminder: All children should be accompanied by one adult only.**
* Any urgent messages for the school or class teacher:

School phone No. 028 27662664

School email: info@stbrigidsps.ballymoney.ni.sch.uk

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

**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.
* If your child is unwell with any other illness, it is always best practice to keep the child at home.

**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 or anyone in your household has symptoms**

* Get a test to check for coronavirus as soon as possible.
* **Everyone MUST stay at home and do not have visitors until you get the test result – only leave your home to have a test.**

**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.

**Term 2 School Closures**

Class A & B finish on Wednesday 31 March

Year 1-7 school closes 12 noon on Thursday 1 April (Holy Thursday)

Easter Holidays Friday 2 April to Friday 9 April Inclusive.

Monday 12 April Staff Development Day

**Term 3 starts Tuesday 13 April**

**Sacraments 2021**

Penance:  Year 3 Wednesday 5 May 10.30 am

Holy Communion: Year 4 Saturday 22 May 10.30 am

Confirmation: Year 7 Wednesday 9 June 5.00 pm

More information with regards to each Sacrament will be issued after Easter.

As things are always 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