

Ebrington Primary School & Nursery Unit



Updated School RESTART Transition Plan August 2020

Ebrington Primary & Nursery School seeks to provide a caring secure and challenging environment in which all our pupils have an equal opportunity to reach their full potential – spiritually, socially, academically, physically, emotionally, morally and culturally and in which teaching and learning of academic excellence can occur with the co-operation and support of parents.

Dear Parent

I hope that you have enjoying your summer holidays, although they may have been very different to what we are used to. The staff at Ebrington PS & NU are looking forward to welcoming back our pupils, old and new. We have been very busy planning and preparing for reopening under very different circumstances, and whilst the return to school this year is definitely not a normal one, we have done what we can to welcome our pupils back into a safe, friendly, positive environment.

Following the re-release of school RESTART guidance from the Department of Education on 14 August, please find below an updated guide to the school return for ALL PUPILS to follow from Tuesday 1 September 2020.

As there is such fluidity currently with the response to Covid-19, and as continued lockdown restrictions are lifted, we need to be mindful of the flexibility to best meet the needs of the pupils, staff and parents as the Education system transitions from 'Lockdown' to a 'New Normal Education at School'.

We recognise the impact that the wider society and public health changes may have on transition plans and will, at all times, put the needs, health and wellbeing of our pupils and staff first and foremost.

Our overarching **KEY STRATEGY**:

Our key strategy in school will be to apply 'protective bubbles' within school. The Executive, on 6 August 2020, agreed that the stringent application of social distancing requirements between pupils will be relaxed from 17 August. Public Health guidance with respect to social distancing of 2 metres (2m) will remain in place between adults and as far as possible between adults and pupils.

KEY AIMS through this strategy:

- to safely bring back all pupils and engage in face to face learning with school staff
- to provide necessary curriculum support to pupils as they return to the routine of the 'new school day'
- to provide opportunities for pupils to engage in activities developed to promote good emotional health and wellbeing

KEY CONSIDERATIONS in managing the implementation of this strategy:

- DE Guidance (19 June & 14 August primary schools and 23 June & 18 August pre-schools) and any subsequent published guidance material.
- School group and individual risk assessments.
- DE/EA risk assessments.
- Operational plan for RESTART, including safety measures.
- Enhanced cleaning regime and procedures in place.
- Additional staff employed throughout school (at least 2 adults in each classroom).
- PHA guidelines for suspected/ confirmed cases, and implications of this for school/ bubble.
- Surveys and views of governors, staff and parents & pupils.
- Induction of new Nursery and Year 1 intake, and transition to post-primary for outgoing Year 7 pupils.
- Adaptations to school Positive Behaviour policy, Intimate Care policy & Use of ICT policy.

It is our desired plan to have the school return to a 'safe normal' as soon as possible. The information presented in this document provides you with an updated overview of this RESTART plan.

As previously stated, having engaged in numerous meetings with school principals in the Derry/ Londonderry area, it was agreed that a statement be issued to parents explaining that 'every school will operate slightly differently due to various circumstances at a local level, as each school's availability of staff, space and resources are different. All schools, however, will operate in line with following DE guidance.'

It is our current intention to open in the new academic year using PLAN B (see highlighted section below):

Plan A	Plan B	Plan C	Plan D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The whole school is back in. <p>The school is in full operation, with all aspects of school life running normally.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The whole school is back in. <p>Each class is operating under a protective bubble system. Additional outdoor time is built into the 'recovery' curriculum. There is a focus throughout term 1 on Numeracy, Literacy and pastoral support in each classroom. Dinners/ packed lunches eaten in classrooms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School is back, but through 'blended learning' <p>Blended learning takes place with pupils attending school 2 days each week/ 3 days remote learning. Family groups matched so that their class 'bubbles' are in on same day.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lockdown (school is closed) <p>Pupils/ staff are fully engaged in remote learning.</p>

NO BREAKFAST CLUB/ AFTER SCHOOL CLUB IN OPERATION (to be kept under constant review)

Planned return dates:

Dates	Class	Details
Monday 24 August- Friday 28 August	Primary 7	All P7 pupils should be available to return P7 pupils will initially be placed in 6 small groups for this one week only. There will be a focus on developing Literacy & Numeracy covered during P6 summer term, as well as pastoral activities. Majority of teachers engaging with P7 pupils during the week
Monday 24 August- Friday 28 August	Nursery	Nursery Induction Programme Monday-Wednesday, Nursery parent & child 'stay and play' sessions (details provided by Nursery). Thursday & Friday, Nursery staff available to support P1 staff and pupils, if required.

Dates	Class	Details
Monday 24 August- Friday 28 August	Primary 1	Primary 1 Induction Programme Monday-Thursday, will have 7-8 x P1 pupils attend a shortened daily session to aid transition from Nursery-P1.
Monday 31 August	ALL CLASSES OFF SCHOOL	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday 1 September	ALL CLASSES RETURN TO SCHOOL IN 'PROTECTIVE BUBBLES'	P2-P7 pupils, as well as Speech & Language pupils, in school for their normal school days. (No S & L pupils on Fridays) P1 will initially operate with ½ classes-Tuesday/ Wednesday & Thursday/ Friday (details from P1). All P1 pupils in the following week Nursery will operate first of 3 intakes from Tuesday-Tuesday 1 st , Thursday 3 rd and Tuesday 8 th September (details from Nursery).

Covid-19

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD A CHILD BE SENT TO SCHOOL IF THEY, OR ANYONE LIVING IN THEIR FAMILY HOME DISPLAY ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS:

- High temperature or fever
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss of or change in sense of taste or smell

Should anyone display these symptoms, do not come to school. Call 111 and/ or book a free test.

Just as a reminder, should your child be unwell with vomiting, diarrhoea or any other common illness, contact the school to be advised how long they should remain at home until they can return.

Communication

Please ensure that, if you have recently moved or changed phone numbers, that the office have your most recent contact details. If you have a concern or need to speak directly to a member of staff, please contact the school office on 20871 343864 or email us at bguthrie493@c2kni.net. As I am sure you understand, no parent can just 'pop in' for a chat in the morning with the teacher.

It is important that if your child has an appointment or will be late in/ going home early, you send a written note to school to allow us to keep an accurate record of pupil attendance.

Holiday returns

If you have recently returned to Northern Ireland from a holiday in a country that is in the 'non-exempt' category, as identified on the www.health-ni.gov.uk website for International travel amendment regulations, then you should self-isolate for 14 days from day of return and your children should not attend school.

Arrival at school

All vehicular access should be to the shale pitch on Nelson Drive. This will be marked for parking bays and will operate a one-way system. Please ensure you drive safely and carefully, due to the increased pedestrian traffic around this area. **NO PARENT CARS SHOULD COME THROUGH THE MAIN SCHOOL GATES ON THE LIMAVADY ROAD. IF YOU HAVE LIMITED MOBILITY, PLEASE CONTACT SCHOOL FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.** The gates to this will open from 8:15am, to stop traffic congestion on the main roads. School pod doors will open from 8:40am, so we would encourage parents/ pupils to wait in their cars until nearer this time. **Pupils should line up outside their pod doors, in an organised way, as they would at the end of break/ lunch time.** They should not be running around the playground or using any trim trail or play equipment prior to school starting. **Pedestrian access from the Limavady Road is permitted, from 8:30am, and we ask all to ensure they use the footpaths.**

WE ARE NOT OPERATING A GRADUATED DROP OFF/ PICK UP TIME. A one-way pedestrian system is in operation-please refer to the map provided and PLEASE follow these guidelines.

To limit footfall on site, we would request that only one parent/ guardian walk the pupil to the school building, unless as a family, it makes it more convenient for parents to share 'dropping off' at different pod doors. Pupils in P3-P7 should be able to manage moving to their pod door without a parent-no parent should need to come through the lower playground gate.

We request that P1-P2 parents do not enter classroom pods, and all parents observe appropriate social distancing when moving within the site. We would also discourage congregating in small groups for a parental chat in the morning, while on the school site.

Staff will meet pupils at the pod doors and will provide handwashing facilities on entry to each classroom.

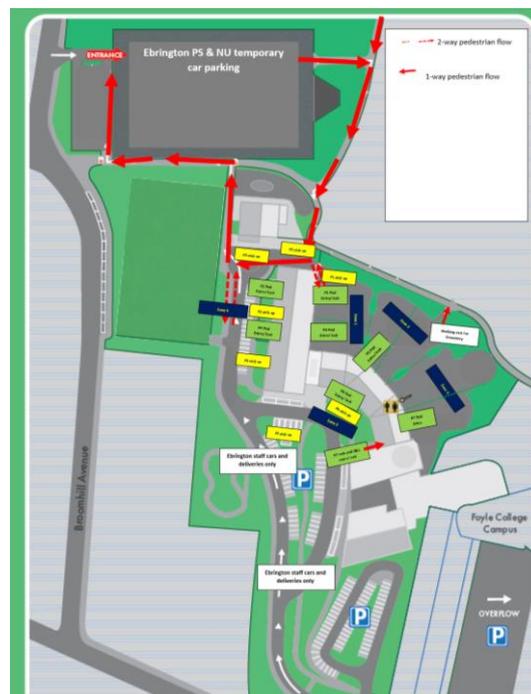
Should your child have been unwell within the last 24 hours, it is **IMPERATIVE** that they **DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL** until fully recovered in order to minimise the risk to others.

***IMPORTANT-NEW SCHOOL TIMES (Friday only)**

The Nursery Unit will continue to start and finish at its planned daily times. School will operate normal start and finish times on Monday-Thursday (P1-P2 finish at 2:00pm, P3-P7 finish at 3:00pm) **HOWEVER, ON A FRIDAY, DUE TO COVID-19, SCHOOL WILL FINISH FOR ALL PRIMARY PUPILS (P1-P7) AT 2:00PM.** This allows school to give an enhanced weekly clean, as well as the regular thorough clean. We will keep this under review throughout the term and inform parents of any changes.

Class Protective Bubbles

Each class will be known as a 'protective bubble'. Each bubble will be its own separate entity and will not mix with other bubbles. This includes adult support within each bubble, where school is employing temporary additional staff to ensure at least 2 adults with each bubble. This will also include break times and lunch times. The playground and school grounds have been timetabled and divided for appropriate use and school meals will be delivered to, and eaten in, the classrooms. We are fortunate to have toilet facilities within each 'pod' for our Nursery-P4 pupils. Each bubble will be allocated particular toilets. Our KS2 and S & L toilets will be monitored, timetabled (as much as possible) and cleaned on a regular basis throughout the day.



In-School Hygiene

Pupils will have supervised handwashing built in to the school daily plans. In addition to this, each classroom is being equipped with hand sanitizer and cleaning products which the class teacher and classroom assistant will use on surfaces throughout the day. Furthermore, school is ensuring that toilets and regularly touched contact points are cleaned regularly.

Suspected case of Covid-19

Should a pupil present with any of the following 3 symptoms (as identified by the PHA):,

- Elevated temperature
- Continuous cough
- Change in taste/ smell

they will be removed from their 'protective bubble' and taken directly to our designated isolation room, where they will be supervised until an adult comes to collect them. Their temperature will be taken and recorded, and any siblings in school will also be removed from their class to go home.

After each use of this isolation room, a thorough clean will take place.

Home time

Again, no traffic should be coming through the main school gates, rather parking is on the upper shale pitch from Nelson Drive. At home time, pupils will be escorted to certain 'pick up zones' around school (identified on previous map). While waiting, all parents should adhere to the appropriate social distancing guidelines. Upon collection of your child/ children, please leave the school grounds following the one-way system.

Equipment required:

For the first day of return to school, we expect all our pupils from P4-P7 to bring the following in a named pencil case. This pencil case will then remain in school in the child's tray for only their use throughout the school day:

Necessary equipment: 2 HB pencils, rubber & sharpener, colouring pencils, ruler, glue stick.

Other essentials: Water bottle/ morning break, lunch box (if not school meals), coat.

***Please see table on the following page for additional information...

Class	Equipment needed on day 1	Lunches/ snack	Homework
Nursery	Nursery guidance is being issued to parents during the transition days, week beginning 24 August	*Hot dinner provided by school meals from the date agreed * Snack supplied by Nursery, using Nursery fund collection	*Communication via SeeSaw *Home activities set from time to time
P1	Equipment supplied by school P1 guidance is being issued to parents during the transition days, week beginning 24 August	*Packed lunch can be brought daily (disposable bag OR lunch bag/ box which can be sanitised daily)-stored in pod *Fresh fruit snack supplied by	*Communication via SeeSaw *Home activities set * Reading books will be used, but 'quarantined'

P1 contd		school-cost weekly/ half-termly to school *Dinner/ lunch eaten in classroom	before sent with pupil *Key words focus
P2	Equipment supplied by school Information will be included on a P2 Padlet	*Packed lunch can be brought daily (disposable bag OR lunch bag/ box which can be sanitised daily)-stored in pod *Fresh fruit snack supplied by school cost weekly/ half-termly to school *Dinner/ lunch eaten in classroom	*Communication via SeeSaw *Home activities set * Reading books will be used, but 'quarantined' before sent with pupil *Phonic pack focus
P3	Equipment supplied by school	*Packed lunch can be brought daily (disposable bag OR lunch bag/ box which can be sanitised daily)-stored in class *Water bottle can be brought in daily (must be named/ labelled) *Fresh fruit snack supplied by school-cost weekly/ half-termly to school (extending this from P2 last year-health benefits) *Dinner/ lunch eaten in classroom	* Communication via Padlet *homework booklets set for alternate weeks
P4	*Empty School Bag brought on Day 1-it then stays in school and will be used to store day-to-day items (water bottle/ snack/ homework folder etc) *Pencil case & stationary	*Water bottle can be brought in daily (must be named/ labelled) *Packed lunch can be brought daily (disposable bag OR lunch bag/ box which can be sanitised daily) *Snack can be brought daily *Dinner/ lunch eaten in classroom	* Communication via Padlet *homework booklets set for alternate weeks
P5	*Empty School Bag brought on Day 1-it then stays in school and will be used to store day-to-day items (water bottle/ snack/ homework folder etc) *Pencil case & stationary	*Water bottle can be brought in daily (must be named/ labelled) *Packed lunch can be brought daily (disposable bag OR lunch bag/ box which can be sanitised daily) *Snack can be brought daily *Dinner/ lunch eaten in classroom	*Communication via Microsoft Teams * Spellings/ tables from 7 September *weekly literacy/ numeracy pack from 14 September
P6	*Empty School Bag brought on Day 1-it then stays in school and will be used to store day-to-day items (water bottle/ snack/ lunch/ homework folder etc) *Pencil case & stationary	*Water bottle can be brought in daily (must be named/ labelled) *Packed lunch can be brought daily (disposable bag OR lunch bag/ box which can be sanitised daily) *Snack can be brought daily *Dinner/ lunch eaten in classroom	*Communication via Microsoft Teams * Spellings/ tables from 7 September *weekly literacy/ numeracy pack from 14 September

P7	*Empty School Bag brought on Day 1-it then stays in school and will be used to store day-to-day items (water bottle/ snack/ homework folder etc) *Pencil case & stationary	*Water bottle can be brought in daily (must be named/ labelled) *Packed lunch can be brought daily (disposable bag OR lunch bag/ box which can be sanitised daily) *Snack can be brought daily *Dinner/ lunch eaten in classroom	*Communication via Microsoft Teams * Spellings/ tables from 7 September *weekly literacy/ numeracy pack from 1 September
Sp & Lang	Equipment supplied by school	Water bottle can be brought in daily (must be named/ labelled) *Packed lunch can be brought daily (disposable bag OR lunch bag/ box which can be sanitised daily) *Snack can be brought daily *Dinner/ lunch eaten in classroom	*Homework folders sent out on Mondays and brought into school on a Wednesday and Thursday.

Learning Platforms

Online learning is currently being developed by staff, to engage and communicate with parents and to be in a position to supply work to pupils in the event of local/ national lockdown restrictions.

Nursery, P1 & P2 are going to be using SeeSaw (P2 initially through Padlet, until parents receive SeeSaw QR codes)

P3 & P4 are going to be using Padlet

P5-P7 plan to engage with Microsoft Teams. We feel these platforms best meet the needs of the age groups of the pupils involved.

Should a parent wish to speak with a teacher, they should contact the school office to do so. Initially, it may not be possible to hold face to face meetings with parents.

Reducing transfer of paper/ card/ money

We have changed companies for the operation of our cashless system in school, and will be using 'Eduspot SchoolMoney'. Staff are receiving training on this on Wednesday 26 August and we will be giving parents all the required information they need once we have it. Initially, it will be necessary to send dinner money in to school (hopefully only for first 2 weeks), until we have all the relevant information out to parents.

Please ensure the correct amount is given in a money bag/ envelope, with child's name on it. NO CHANGE CAN BE ISSUED BY THE SCHOOL OFFICE. Any changes to this, we will make you aware as soon as possible.

Pastoral Support

We fully understand that all families, and especially our pupils, are likely to have had a range of experiences during 'lockdown'. These may have included such things as difficulties in managing home-school/ work, child anxieties over Covid-19, family difficulties/ bereavement. Therefore, as a school, we are carrying out an overview of the school PATHS programme and will be using the relevant areas of this throughout all year groups to pastorally support pupils on their return.

Pupils with SEN/ Medical Needs

If any parents of pupils with SEN/ Medical needs feels there is a need for their child to have an individual risk assessment drawn up, please make contact with school. This is something that should be completed in consultation with the parent, school and any external medical support, if required.

School 'Wrap-Around' services

Our initial school RESTART plan does not incorporate either Breakfast Club or After School Club. We do, however, recognise the huge importance and value of these services to our school community. We will endeavour to have these services running in some format as soon as we feel is safely possible, while still keeping within all guidelines.

Policy Review

As a result of Covid-19 and DE Guidance, there are a number of policies that school have been reviewing. These include our Positive Behaviour Policy, Intimate Care Policy and Use of ICT Policy. These policies will be shared with parents on the school website prior to school return, or when fully completed and ratified by school governors. Any further policies/ risk assessments that come out of any further guidance from DE will also be provided to parents, where appropriate.

'ALL IN THIS TOGETHER' #TEAMEBRINGTON

I would, again, like to thank all those parents who engaged with our school RESTART survey last term, and I trust that the information contained within this re-issued document goes some way in addressing the concerns that you, as parents, had identified before feeling confident of your pupils returning to school.

We are all going to have a variety of feelings about school return and the new school day-excited, nervous, and everything in between! Words that we have heard so many times are 'unprecedented times'. It is essential that we can all work together, be respectful to each other and follow the information within this plan to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of all involved in #Team Ebrington.

On behalf of all school staff, I would like to say that we truly look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday 1 September

Kind regards

Mr Guthrie

