



EBRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Welcome Back

2020-2021

Dear Parents, Carers & Pupils

After almost 6 months away, it has been wonderful to welcome back all our pupils, parents and staff for what will be another very busy year in school. Having visited all the classrooms over the first week, it is great to see how well settled everyone has been, and how well all have adjusted to the new routines in place during the school day.

School Uniform

The children coming in look so smart in their new school uniforms. It certainly helps to set a positive example throughout school. As I am sure you are aware, we have almost 500 pupils on site with Nursery School, Primary School and the Speech & Language unit. Please ensure that all items of uniform, coats and PE kits have your child's name on them.



School RESTART

Our school RESTART plans look to be working well. The routines set for the start of the school day and home time look to be keeping all the pupils safe. All pupils have come back to school in a fantastic manner and all are well settled coming in to class in the morning. WELL DONE to all-pupils and parents!!

Car Parking

I am 'over the moon' at how well our school family have adapted to the new parking routine on the shale pitch. We have made small adjustments when seeing the plan in operation, and all have made the system run more smoothly. I am enjoying waving at all the pupils coming in to school in the morning, even when the rain is on.

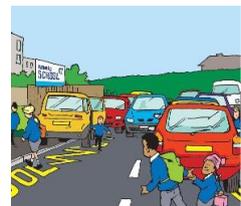
REMINDERS:

***Please keep the upper car park CLEAR in the morning and afternoon-park ONLY on the shale pitch. There is more than enough room for everyone.**

***Please ensure you travel in the one-way system.** This morning, 2 cars exited the shale pitch moving into oncoming traffic.

***If accessing the school site on foot, the Clooney Greenway is the safest option.** Please use the access gate closest to the Nursery building, as this is Ebrington's access. The lower access gate should only be used by Foyle College pupils.

I ask for your continued support in this matter.



Active Travel to/ from school

Again, we are all for promoting active travel to school. Initially, I was unsure how we would manage bicycles coming on to site and being stored, but in seeing how well we are all doing, we encourage our school family to come to school on foot or by bicycle/ scooter, where possible. Any bicycles should be brought to the bicycle shed at the front of school before pupils move to their pod entry area.



REMINDER: Ebrington Primary & Nursery School is a 'nut-free school'. This includes any products which may contain nuts/ nut traces. We greatly appreciate your support in this matter.

Attendance

The attendance register is marked twice a day. If a pupil is absent for part of the day, this is recorded. Allowances are made for medical appointments and therefore it is important to inform your child's teacher, if he/she has to be absent from school. Similarly, teachers should be informed if your child is sick, otherwise an "unauthorised absence" is recorded. If children have to leave school before the end of the day, the teacher must be informed in advance. A number of years ago the Department of Education introduced a new code to highlight unauthorised absence for family holidays during term time. Please do not book holidays at times when your child should be in school.

If your child is physically sick or has had diarrhoea, it is recommended that he/she should be kept off school for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness. As we hear reports of coughs, colds and tummy bugs going around, please check for any signs and symptoms of illness and keep children at home if they are sick.

If a pupil presents with any of the following 3 symptoms (as identified by the Public Health Agency), they will be removed from their 'bubble' and taken directly to the designated isolation room where they will be supervised until a parent collects them.

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



Your co-operation on this matter will be very much appreciated.

School Dinners

An updated school menu will be issued to parents on the school website and school Facebook page before the end of this week. The changes will come into effect from Monday 14 September. Our staff training on the use of the SchoolMoney cashless system is taking place on Thursday 10 September, so we hope to have it fully operational for the week beginning Monday 17 September-a long time coming, but hopefully well worth it.



Child Protection

Our designated teacher for child protection this year continues to be Mrs Baggley and our deputy designated teachers will be Mrs S Pentland and Miss Caithness. Any queries or problems should be directed to one of these three designated officers in the first instance, or through the school principal, Mr Guthrie.

Ebrington PS PTA-‘Friends of Ebrington’

We are pleased to announce that our application to the Charity Commission for registered charity status has now been approved. This will mean that there will be a wider variety of grants, fundraising events and funding that school can access through the PTA. Each year we value the work of the Parent Teacher Association Committee. Events may be curtailed this year, due to Covid, but more details will follow as to how you can become involved. However, as always, I am confident that the PTA will strive to support the school in any way possible.

Shared Education



All Shared Education activities between partnership schools have been put on hold for the present time. We do, however, plan to continue the good practice of planning together with our colleagues from Holy Child PS, and we are looking at virtual ways of doing this.

Positive Behaviour Policy

Our positive behaviour policy has had an addendum included due to our RESTART guidance. This will be added to the school website before the end of this week. It is imperative that pupils act and behave in a responsible manner. Any pupil that cannot follow the directions of the staff in school, is non-compliant with any of our new guidelines or who put the health and safety of themselves or others at risk will be dealt with in line with this policy.

And finally...

We, as a school community, want to pass on our sincere congratulations to Mrs Lindsay and her husband, following the safe arrival of baby ‘Sam Lindsay’ on 21 August 2020.



We look forward to your continued support throughout the 2020/2021 academic year.

#TeamEbrington

