



EBRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

August 2023

Welcome Back

2023-2024 Academic Year

Dear Parents, Carers & Pupils

After 2 months away, it is wonderful to be welcoming back all our pupils, parents and staff for another very busy year in school. Staff have been busy over the last week or two making various arrangements for pupils returning, so please see a note of some of these.

School Uniform

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. A HUGE number of jumpers go missing each month!

School RESTART

All pupils in P2-P7 will return to school on Wednesday 30th August, and complete a full school day. School dinner is available and is bookable via the app.

The school day starts at 8:55am. Pupils should be seated in class at this time. Pod doors open at 8:40am. Breakfast club is available from 8:00am. REMINDER-Nursery pupils cannot access breakfast club.

Pupils in Nursery, P1 and S& L will have had their start dates/ times communicated to them separately.

Car Parking

REMINDERS:

***Please keep the upper car park CLEAR in the morning and afternoon-park ONLY in the designated parking spaces, not along double yellow lines.**

***As we are limited with our lower car park spaces, please remember to manage this as a 'drop-off' zone. Do not park up on double yellow lines, or on the corners. Cones have been put there for a reason-to help ensure safety of the pupils.**

***If accessing the school site on foot, from the Clooney Greenway, please use the access gate closest to the Nursery building, as this is Ebrington's access. The lower access gate, on the grounds of Foyle College, 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. The area near the Nursery is not a bike shelter-it is for parents to shelter in when waiting for Nursery/ P1/ P2 pick up.

School Crossing Patrol Person

During the summer, I was informed that our school crossing patrol person was retiring. We wish Peter all the best in his retirement and hope he can fulfil the various plans he has for his free time.

In contacting EA to organise a replacement, I have been informed that, through current budget constraints, no new SCP employees are being recruited and, due to legal implications, no untrained staff should be taking on the role.

This obviously leaves us with the problem of not having a school crossing patrol person on duty at the dangerous Nelson Drive junction to our car park.

I am currently challenging this decision by the EA/ DE and will update parents when I can. However, **I need YOUR SUPPORT to ensure our pupils remain safe going to and from school.** Everyone using this area needs to proceed with extra caution and support.

Nut-Free School

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. Please ensure you are not sending anything in for snack or in lunch boxes that contains nuts.

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.

Over the last couple of years, our school attendance has not been of the same standard as previously. I understand some of this was down to increased illness due to Covid, but I would like to see us get back to an increased % attendance, more in line with the NI average. Please see below table which shows results of non-attendance and the impact it has on your child's education. We have had a number of pupils in the very poor/ unacceptable category, and I hope this trend changes.

100% Attendance		0 days missed	Excellent
95% Attendance		9 days of absence 1 week and 4 days of learning missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance		19 days of absence 3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed	Poor
85% Attendance		28 days of absence 5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Very poor
80% Attendance		38 days of absence 7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance		46 days of absence 9 weeks and 1 day of learning missed	Unacceptable

We look forward to your continued support throughout the 2023/2024 academic year.

#TeamEbrington