

Portrush Primary School



Kicking off again!
and again!
and again!
and again!



Portrush Primary School

Crocknamack Road, Portrush,

Co. Antrim BT56 8JW

Principal: Mr C. G. Guy B. Ed (Hons) P.Q.H.



facebook.com/PortrushPS



www.portrushps.com



028 70 822 333

18th August 2020

The latest version!

Dear parent,

We have once again moved forwards, backwards and every other direction as we try to follow developments as they evolve. Last week's latest guidance centres on the following:

Following engagement with public health colleagues, educational practitioners, and a consultation group comprising trades unions, Managing Authorities and sectoral bodies, it is recommended that:-

- *Anyone displaying any COVID-19 symptoms must not attend school, with schools vigorously implementing this guidance.*
- *Primary school children return to full time education with a 'protective bubble' strategy implemented as a key mitigating action. A class will act as a single consistent group or bubble, with minimal prolonged interaction with other classes within the school. Social distancing within classes should be maximised based on physical capacity.*

From "NORTHERN IRELAND RE-OPENING SCHOOLS GUIDANCE-NEW SCHOOL DAY-VERSION 2"

We are trying very hard to make sense of everything, no matter how contradictory it appears against the rules for wider society. We are trying to adopt a practicable, workable solution that combines the guidance and some common sense!

As you can imagine, the pages that follow won't answer every individual question that you may have, but we hope it covers the majority.

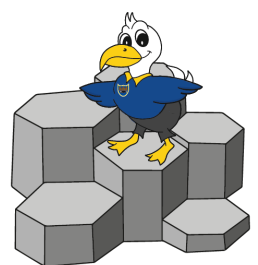
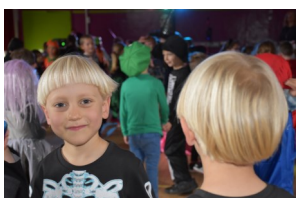
We fully appreciate just how much our children need school and want it to be as special as it always is and as safe as it can be! Please support us by being extra vigilant and cautious over any symptoms you or your child may display. We know there is plenty of evidence to suggest children may not display obvious symptoms.

Without a doubt there will be a rise in cases and no doubt some school somewhere may suffer an outbreak, we just have to take all the precautions we can to try and mitigate the risks. We hope you can see the efforts we have made and you can send your child into our care with confidence!

We will of course manage and adapt our procedures as we see what works and what doesn't and will do what we can to keep you up to date with the ever changing landscape!

Carwyn Guy

Principal



What we need you to do before returning your child to school:

- Make them aware of all the little changes highlighted in this document so they are aware of what school might look like;
- Send your child with their own stationery as listed here- *Pencil, rubber, sharpener, ruler and colouring pencils (preferably "Twistables")*



The **importance of good respiratory hygiene** should be discussed with and explained to children.

- They should be discouraged from touching their eyes, face, nose and mouth, putting hands/fingers into their mouths - often unconscious actions that we all make regularly;
- They should be shown how to cough into their elbow if they don't have a tissue / paper towel;
- If they have a paper towel they should be shown how to cough into it and then dispose safely of it into the nearest bin.
- **Uniform**-While Coronavirus can land on fabrics and remain for some time, schools are not a high risk environment and while all children and young people should be encouraged to wear clean uniform or fresh clothes each day, this is not essential. (From "NORTHERN IRELAND RE-OPENING SCHOOLS GUIDANCE-NEW SCHOOL DAY")
- **Packed lunches**-please remember that packed lunches will be eaten in the classroom and we will be trying to keep mess to a minimum-as little as possible should travel from home to school to home;
- Please make sure we have **up to date contact telephone numbers** for you;
- Whilst, like so much of what is coming, this goes against the grain of what we would normally encourage, **sharing of stationery etc will not be encouraged**. Again, as little as possible should travel from home to school to home;
- There will be a **one way system** in place with the first stairs near the office being 'DOWN' stairs and the furthest stairs being 'UP' stairs;
- Please talk to your child about **social distancing**, we can't pretend it will happen in every situation, but we will make every effort to follow the guidelines in place.

On a daily basis check your child's temperature-if it is raised, you cannot send your child to school.



FREQUENTLYASKED QUESTIONS:

Start Date: Our intended start date for children has always been Tuesday 2nd September. **We will now be starting all children back from 9-12 for the week of 24th-28th August.** This first week of school will be a week to ease children back into school after their longest ever absence. We will focus on PDMU issues and catch up issues that have arisen throughout the past few months. There will be no homework set this week (possible exception of children in P7 preparing for Transfer). Homework will then start to be implemented the following week as school progresses. This will have a knock on effect on school closing throughout the year and an updated list is included at the rear of the booklet.

Blended Learning:

All children will be returning to school on Monday 24th August. If there are extenuating circumstances where a child cannot return to school we will endeavour to support some sort of blended learning at home, however we hope you will understand this will not be the same as being in the classroom.

School drop off:

Parents will not be permitted in the school building.

We will make an exception to this for the first week for our new children starting P1-such a daunting time for them we can't make this any more daunting.

Normally we have a host of children waiting on the doors opening at 8:30. Unfortunately we must enforce set drop off times for each family and will notify you of these. It is very likely that we will ask you to maintain some form of social distancing when dropping off and picking up. **Please refer to the guide at the rear of this booklet.**

Healthy Breaks & Water provision:

Parents must provide their own healthy breaks and water bottles. The water fountain will be out of use. Break times will be staggered.

Lunch times:

There will be staggered lunch times.

The children will eat their packed lunches in the classrooms. School meals will still be available through the School Meals Kitchen for those paying and on free school meals, but they will be packed lunches. (Excluding the week beginning 24th August)

Packed lunches should be sent to school as normal. Again, to limit the potential transfer between school and home we will not be encouraging children to be sharing items and they should be kept to themselves.

Toilets:

We will be encouraging each class to visit the toilets at timetabled parts of the day, to allow us to clean immediately afterwards. However we fully appreciate that the human body isn't necessarily that predictable! If you gotta go, you gotta go!

Home times:

The normal school day will be followed, with pick up times as stated in the guide at the rear of this booklet.

Children with educational/behavioural needs:

Classroom assistants normally work in close proximity to children and whilst social distancing guidelines are still in place they must be respected. If a child is unable to follow this then we will not be able to accommodate them in school.

Approach to teaching:

With the time children have spent out of school already, we will be focussing primarily on the fundamentals of Literacy and Numeracy.

Physical Education:

The hall is now not being used as a classroom therefore we will be trying to have as much PE as is possible! If we can facilitate non contact PE outdoors then we will inform you of what to send to school.

For September the children will be taking part in a RUN FOR FUN each day they are in school!

After school activities:

For the first few weeks there will be no after school activities-we will update you on this as we monitor the situation.

Hand washing:

Frequent handwashing can reduce the risk of infection. Hand washing with soap and water for 20 seconds will be facilitated and encouraged both before and after activities and at different times of the day.

Should your child have any allergies to regular soaps, please supply your child with soap that meets their needs.

Stepping Stones:

Stepping Stones will resume, following the childcare guidelines, on Tuesday 1st September 2020.

Tel: 02870833200 Mobile: 07935301992 Email: info@steppingstonecreche.co.uk

Playpals Creche Facility:

Michaela will be endeavouring to open, albeit with reduced numbers in September. Normal hours are 11:30am—1:30pm. She can be contacted on 07821065429

Cleaning in school:

Our cleaners in school will continue as normal with a specific focus on key areas such as door handles, bannisters, toilets etc.

Payments:

All payments in school **MUST** be made through the Parentpay website. (www.parentpay.com)

If you have any difficulty accessing this, please contact Michelle on 02870822333

Social distancing/bubbles approach:

Protective bubbles will be used as a key mitigating action where possible. The protective bubble arrangements will be used to segment pupils into a consistent group or groups as far as is practicable. The approach will vary depending on age group. In pre-school, primary, Education Other Than At Schools (EOTAS) centres and special schools, it is envisaged that in most cases a class will act as a single consistent bubble with minimal prolonged interaction with other classes. From "NORTHERN IRELAND RE-OPENING SCHOOLS GUIDANCE-NEW SCHOOL DAY-VERSION 2"

Assemblies:

There will be no assemblies for the first few weeks until we see how things develop.

Hygiene and Physical Protection:

- Children will wash hands as soon as they arrive at school and regularly through the school day.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will only be required in a very small number of cases e.g. dealing with intimate needs/ giving medication.
- PPE should not be worn by children;
- All cleaning will be carried out in accordance with PHA Guidance. Routine general cleaning should take place at least daily.
- Regular cleaning of door handles, desk tops etc. will take place throughout the day.
- Schools should remove unnecessary items from classroom e.g. soft toys, lego, learning materials that are hard to clean.
- Enhanced cleaning may be required following an outbreak of COVID-19.

Extracts from "NORTHERN IRELAND RE-OPENING SCHOOLS GUIDANCE-NEW SCHOOL DAY-VERSION 2"

"Using personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriately

If any child is displaying coronavirus symptoms they should be sent home.

PPE is only needed in a very small number of cases. These are:

- Working with children, young people and pupils whose care routinely already involves the use of PPE, due to their intimate care needs
- Giving children medication

Working safely in specific situations, including where PPE may be required

Reference to PPE in the following situations means:

- fluid-resistant surgical face masks
- disposable gloves
- disposable plastic aprons
- eye protection (for example a face visor or goggles)

Where PPE is recommended, this means that:

- A facemask should be worn if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained from someone with symptoms of COVID-19. [**Symptomatic children should not be in school**]
- If contact is necessary, gloves, an apron and a facemask should be worn
- If a risk assessment determines that there is a risk of fluids entering the eye (e.g. from coughing, spitting or vomiting), eye protection should also be worn

When PPE is used, it is essential that it is used properly. This includes scrupulous hand hygiene and following guidance on donning (putting on) and doffing (taking off) PPE safely to reduce the risk of contamination

Face masks:

- **MUST** cover both nose and mouth
- **MUST** be changed when they become moist or damaged
- **MUST** be worn once and then discarded - hands must be cleaned after disposal
- **MUST NOT** be allowed to dangle around the neck
- **MUST NOT** be touched once put on, except when carefully removed before disposal "

Children should not wear PPE

Face Coverings

There is a clear distinction between PPE and face coverings. PPE is specialist medical grade equipment that has been and will continue to be used when working with some pupils whose hygiene or care needs involve the possible spread of liquids or aerosol dispersion such as vomiting or spitting. The guidance on the use of PPE is led by the underlying health need of the pupil and is unchanged.

Given the risk mitigations in place in schools to limit and contain the spread of COVID-19, face coverings are not generally recommended for routine use in schools. Staff and pupils may wish to use them during the routine school day and this is acceptable. Schools should also be aware that some persons (including children) are exempt from wearing face coverings.

What happens if my child becomes ill:

Extract from DENI Guidelines, "Guidance to support safe working in educational settings in Northern Ireland 4th June 2020:

"If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature/fever or anosmia (a loss or a change in your normal sense of smell, which can also affect your sense of taste) in an educational setting they must be sent home and advised to follow the guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection.

A child awaiting collection should be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door. Ideally, a window should be opened for ventilation. If it is not possible to isolate the child, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people. A risk assessment should be undertaken by the school to address this. (Depending on the age of the child, appropriate adult supervision may be required).

If the child needs to go to the bathroom while waiting to be collected, they should use a separate bathroom if possible. The bathroom should be cleaned and disinfected before being used by anyone else.

PPE should be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if direct personal care is needed and a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained (such as for a very young child or a child with complex needs).

If the child is seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk, call 999. Do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital.

If a member of staff (who was wearing the appropriate PPE and adhering to the social distancing guidelines) has helped someone who was unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature or loss of taste/smell, they do not need to go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They should wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is unwell. Cleaning the affected area with available cleaning products, followed by disinfection after someone with symptoms has left will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people."

What happens if a teacher takes ill:

Extract from DENI Guidelines, "Guidance to support safe working in educational settings in Northern Ireland 4th June 2020:

"If a staff member becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms, they should go home as soon as possible. Cleaning the affected area with available cleaning products, followed by disinfection after someone with symptoms has left, will reduce the risk of passing the infection on to other people. Staff testing should be arranged. "

Pupil Attendance

From "NORTHERN IRELAND RE-OPENING SCHOOLS GUIDANCE-NEW SCHOOL DAY-VERSION 2"

Schools should follow latest guidance on attendance for children and young people who have health conditions, who live with people with health conditions or who are pregnant.

Pupils Who Are Clinically Vulnerable

All schools should follow the latest guidance on attendance for children and young people who have health conditions or who live with individuals who have health conditions or are pregnant. Current guidance on these categories is published on NI Direct and by PHA here. If in doubt, specific advice should be sought from a Hospital Consultant or GP.

In light of the Minister's statement 6th August, clarifying "that having taken account of the scientific and medical evidence, it is now appropriate for all pupils to return to school during the week commencing 31 August" we would consider attendance to be mandatory.

There will be a small number of children where medical guidance would be to refrain from school. The school should satisfy themselves, through evidence provided by the family that the pupil is shielding due to underlying medical conditions. If this is not possible then an unauthorised absence should be recorded.

Pupils Who Live with Someone Who is Clinically Vulnerable

If a child or young person lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely

vulnerable as above), including those who are pregnant, they can attend their education or childcare setting. If in doubt, advice should be sought from the Hospital Consultant or GP of the clinically vulnerable person.

Pupils Who Were Shielding (clinically extremely vulnerable people)

Advice with regard to shielding eased over time and as of 1 August 2020 'shielding' has been paused. Pupil should follow the guidance of their hospital consultant or GP if in doubt about school attendance.

When planning for the return of pupils, education settings should consider the distance learning and support the needs of any pupils who are unable to return to school either all or some of the time.

The most up-to-date guidance and list of underlying health conditions that necessitate shielding should be checked on the NI Direct website under the shielding section.

Pupils Who Are Living with Someone Who Was Shielding

Pupils who have household members who were considered clinically extremely vulnerable (at high risk of severe illness and requiring 'shielding'). These restrictions eased over time and from 1 August 2020 'shielding' has been paused. Such children should have an individual risk assessment conducted before the most appropriate place of care is determined.

Test, Trace and Protect

Pupils and staff who exhibit any symptoms associated with COVID-19 should not attend school. The N.I. Executive has rolled out a Test and Trace and Protect strategy designed to control the spread of COVID-19 and symptomatic staff are expected to follow the advice and obtain a test for COVID-19.

Where an individual has had a negative result, it is important to still apply caution. If everyone with symptoms who was tested in their household receive a negative result, the pupil or member of staff can return to work providing they are well enough and have not had a fever for 48 hours.

Anyone who tests positive will be contacted by the Contact Tracing Service in the Public Health Agency, and will need to share information about their recent interactions. This could include household members, people with whom you have been in direct contact, or been within 2 metres for more than 15 minutes. Passing in corridors and short periods of contact does not therefore present a significant risk to staff or pupils. All household members should follow PHA isolation guidance which currently requires everyone in the house to stay at home. Isolation guidance will then be provided that is context specific and may result in friendship groups, regular contacts and potentially an entire class or 'bubble' being instructed to self-isolate at home.

The guidance is as follows:

- if you have symptoms of coronavirus or a positive test, you will need to stay at home for at least 10 days;
- if you live with someone who has symptoms or a positive test, you will need to stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person in the home started having symptoms;
- however, if you develop symptoms during this 14-day period, you will need to self-check in accordance with Test and Trace guidance and stay at home for 10 days from the day your symptoms started (regardless of what day you are on in the original 14-day period);
- 10 days after your symptoms started, if you do not have a high temperature, you do not need to continue to self-isolate. If you still have a high temperature, keep self-

isolating until your temperature returns to normal. You do not need to self-isolate if you just have a cough after 10 days, as a cough can last for several weeks after the infection has gone;

- if you have symptoms and live with someone who is 70 or over, has a long-term condition, is pregnant or has a weakened immune system, try to find somewhere else they can stay for the 14-day isolation period;
- it is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

Enhanced cleaning should be carried out within any classroom in which an individual who has developed COVID-19 has been to minimise risk of the spread of the virus. This should be clearly communicated to staff, parents and pupils to provide assurance that the environment is safe.

Pupils or members of staff can return to school when they have completed the necessary period of isolation as advised by the Test, Trace and Protect service. This will help contain any potential transmission to those staff/pupils and will also assist in protecting the wider community.

The following page contains the details of staggered drop off and pick up times.

We ask for your help in maintaining adequate social distancing between yourself and other parents at the gate and in the school grounds.

If you have more than one child at school, please drop them all off at the same time rather than waiting and creating any further congestion that we are hoping to avoid!

P1	Miss McGinnis	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Drop off times	8:50am	8:50am	8:50am	8:50am	8:50am
	Pick up W/B 24th Aug only	11.40am	11.40am	11.40am	11.40am	11.40am
	Pick up times	1:50pm	1:50pm	1:50pm	1:50pm	1:50pm
Please remember all P1 children will return home at 12 noon for the 1st two weeks in September						
P2	Mrs Carruthers	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Drop off times	8:40am	8:40am	8:40am	8:40am	8:40am
	Pick up W/B 24th Aug only	11.45am	11.45am	11.45am	11.45am	11.45am
	Pick up times	1:55pm	1:55pm	1:55pm	1:55pm	1:55pm
P3	Mrs Henry	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Drop off times	8:45am	8:45am	8:45am	8:45am	8:45am
	Pick up W/B 24th Aug only	11.50am	11.50am	11.50am	11.50am	11.50am
	Pick up times	3:00pm	2:00pm	3:00pm	2:00pm	2:00pm
P4	Mrs Bradley	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Drop off times	8:40am	8:40am	8:40am	8:40am	8:40am
	Pick up W/B 24th Aug only	11.55am	11.55am	11.55am	11.55am	11.55am
	Pick up times	2:50pm	2:50pm	2:50pm	2:50pm	2:50pm
P5/6	Mr Birch	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Drop off times	8:35am	8:35am	8:35am	8:35am	8:35am
	Pick up W/B 24th Aug only	12 noon	12 noon	12 noon	12 noon	12 noon
	Pick up times	2:55pm	2:55pm	2:55pm	2:55pm	2:55pm
P6	Mrs McNeill	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Drop off times	8:35am	8:35am	8:35am	8:35am	
	Pick up W/B 24th Aug only	12.05pm	12.05pm	12.05pm	12.05pm	12.05pm
	Pick up times	3:05pm	3:05pm	3:05pm	3:05pm	3:05pm
P7	Mr Hayes	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Drop off times	8:30am	8:30am	8:30am	8:30am	8:30am
	Pick up W/B 24th Aug only	12.10pm	12.10pm	12.10pm	12.10pm	12.10pm
	Pick up times	3pm	3pm	3pm	3pm	3pm

The opposite page contains the updated school closing dates for 2020-2021:

Portrush Primary School-Holidays 2020-2021

2019-20	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T
August						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
September	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
October					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
November								1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
December	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
January					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
February	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
March	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
April					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
May							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
June	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
July					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19

School Closed

Children in school

Half Day finish at 12 Noon

School Development Day (SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS)

Weekends



Portrush Primary School
Crocknamack Road
Portrush
BT56 8JW
02870822333

