

Education Authority Western Region

STRABANE CONTROLLED PRIMARY
SCHOOL

43 Derry Road

Strabane

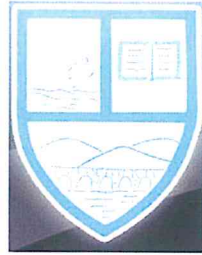
Co. Tyrone

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19th August 2020



Principal Mrs C Thompson

Dear Parents/Carers,

I do trust this letter finds you all well and ready to start school on Monday 24th August. Our motto is and continues to be **SAFE SECURE & SUCCESSFUL**. Our school ethos places significant importance on the care and support of the emotional wellbeing of pupils and this will continue to be addressed through the reopening of school considering the effects of lockdown and the New School Day.

As you are well aware, the Department published revised guidance last Thursday, 13th August 2020.

- <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-re-opening-school-guidance-new-school-day-revised>

Changes will now take place in classrooms and wider school areas including class layouts, resources, markings etc. I am in the process of preparing videos of school routines and layouts for pupils and parents to view before entering the school building as well as a pastoral video to connect with the pupils. A back to school primary workbook has been shared on the school website for pupils to work through the week before returning to school.

Parent/Carers communications

I wish to outline some further information since my last letter dated 4th August. All communication from both a whole school level and classroom level will be digital, e.g. school website, text alert, School App etc.

School Dinners

Packed lunches **will be required for ALL pupils for the week commencing 24th August** as there is no canteen during that week. Please ensure packed lunches are in wipeable containers or disposable bags. School dinners will resume on 1st September and it is planned that all pupils will eat their dinner/packed lunch at their designated table in their classroom.



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Change of clothing for pupils

Pupils may require a change of clothing in the event of an accident or simply getting wet after a fall. Parents/Carers should send in a bag of clothes in a clearly labelled sealed/zipped bag on the first day to be kept in school. We are unable to supply clothing.

Outdoors

Please send a coat for your child EVERYDAY as there will be a significant increase in the amount of time spent outdoors but also bearing in the mind, the arrival and departure procedures. Likewise, if it is warm and sunny, please ensure you apply sun cream to your child/ren and send a sunhat if required.

Milk Money

Pupils who wish to take milk should send in the correct amount of money in a bank bag or sealed envelope with their name clearly marked on it. The cost for this term will be communicated to you soon.

School Calendar

As this school year has started one week earlier than planned, the new school calendar will be loaded onto the school website for you to view.

Breakfast club – commencing 1st September

Breakfast club will be available but it will be a reduced menu. It can be availed of between the times of 8.15 – 8.45am but must be pre-booked with at least 24 hours' notice with Mrs. Maybin. There will be a maximum of 30 places available. This will be the only food served and eaten in the canteen and the area will be cleaned down after use. Pupils will sit socially distanced and line up SD unless in family groups.

- Booking only
- Children can arrive from 8.15am via the main front door. Temperature checks on arrival
- Children to sanitise using the dispenser by the front door
- The hall can be zoned into classes to enable some separation.
- Social distancing as much as possible
- Clear records of attendance for track and trace purposes
- Children will sanitise using the dispenser in main foyer on their way to class.

Arrivals/Departures – Mitigation: staggered times for arrivals and departures

Drop offs and set downs as far as reasonably possible depending on each pupil or family composition.

One-way system to continue and to be enhanced throughout the entire school. Junior and Senior corridors are colour coded

No unnecessary lingering in any area of the school estate by parents, carers or school staff.



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10 minute blocks for each group

According to 1 st letter of Pupil's Surname	Arrival Slots	Home time slots P1 – P3	Home time slots P4 – P7
A – G	9.00 – 9.10	1.30 – 1.40	2.25 – 2.35
H – M	9.10 – 9.20	1.40 – 1.50	2.35 – 2.45
N – Z	9.20 – 9.30	1.50 – 2.00	2.45 – 2.55

Playground Zones for arrival and departure- Designated colour-coded areas for classes to wait outside and line-up (SD) with either their class teacher/CA.

Only one parent should accompany the child/ren

Playgroup pupils and parents – Enter via the outdoor classroom gates and line-up along markers towards the building supervisors' mobile. SD markers at 2m.

Nursery – Enter via Junior playground gates, follow arrowed markers, line-up along picket fence, using 2m SD markers. Parents and children will walk along the side of the Junior playground and hand over child at the nursery gate; parents/carers will not be allowed into the nursery playground or into the building. Children will have a temperature check and will sanitise their hands as they enter the Nursery. Parents to leave following the arrows via the outdoor classroom gate.

P1 – P3/4 Mrs L, Miss F, Mrs B and Mrs Cs' classes – Enter via Junior playground gates and wait at designated area in playground before being taken for temperature check and into school. Member of staff (CA or teacher) will be at each zone ready to receive and supervise bubbles before entering.

P4/5 – P7 Mrs D, Miss A, Mr G and Mr Ms' classes – Enter via the Senior playground and wait at designated area in playground before being taken for temperature check and into school. Member of staff (CA or teacher) will be at the zones ready to receive and supervise bubbles before entering.

Departures

Departures will follow the same procedure with bubbles remaining in their designated zones.

- Playgroup – leave at 11.30am
- Nursery - staggered arrivals
- P1 – P3 Parents will wait along the canteen wall, following the school building at 2m SD markers. Pupils will be directed to the receiving parent/collector when they are visible and ready to receive the pupil/s. They will leave following a directional arrow away from the line of parents. No parent will be allowed past the Junior gates unless Nursery or playgroup. Their home times will differ to the Junior school.
- P4 – P7 Parents will wait at the Main school front entrance, along the ramp access and along the canteen wall, following the school building at 2m SD markers. No parent will be allowed past the intermittent barriers. Pupils will be directed to the receiving parent/collector when they are ready, and it is safe to receive the pupil/s. They will leave following a directional arrow or the pedestrian footpath.



TRANSPORT Buses and Taxis (See attachment from EA received 19th August 2020)

Peter Weir;

Pupils on all buses should always seek to maintain a social distance from others wherever possible, however the guidance for public transport on social distancing will not apply on dedicated school transport in the new school year. The department considers this to be reasonable as:

- *pupils will usually face forward on a vehicle except in a small number of cases such as some pupils with Special Educational Needs;*
- *pupils on dedicated school transport do not mix with the general public on those journeys;*
- *dedicated home to school transport often carries the same group of children and young people on a regular basis, and those children may also be together in school; and*
- *the predictability, which public transport does not afford, will allow for planning so that protective measures can be put in place.*

It is mandatory for all pupils aged 13 and over to wear a face covering on public transport and it is strongly recommended that all pupils should wear a face covering on any form of home to school transport where it is appropriate for them to do so. Pupils should bring a plastic bag for storing their face covering if they have used one on home to school transport. You are asked to ensure that your child(ren) clean their hands before boarding any home to school transport vehicle. Where capacity on a vehicle allows for additional space to be put between pupils, that should be done, however it is recognised that this will not always be possible. Where it is not possible, other measures to protect pupils will be implemented. Home to school transport will run from 1 September except for those pupils in years 7, 12 and 14 who will have access to a limited home to school transport service from 24 August. Further details will be available on the Education Authority website.

When pupils arrive or leave school via bus, they will follow the directions of Mrs Pollock and Mr Nicholl (cross patrol).

When boarding the bus, pupils must adhere to 1m SD and follow guidelines as above. The footpath leading to the pedestrian gate will have 1m SD markings to allow for queuing. Families can sit together on the bus. Where another school shares the bus, the school groups should NOT mix but rather the bus driver and school staff will allocate specific areas for the school which will remain consistent each day.

TAXI – Pupils who travel by taxi will be received by staff either independently OR in the case of younger or less independent pupils, the taxi driver will liaise with the school, a designated time for their arrival. This should allow for a handover to dedicated school staff such as SEN CA. At the end of the school day, the same protocol will follow and the pupil/s will be escorted to the taxi driver at home time maintaining SD and to prevent the taxi driver getting out of the car.



It is strongly recommended that all pupils wear a face covering on all dedicated school transport including buses and taxis where it is appropriate for them to do so. Safe ventilation within the taxi is also encouraged. Parents, please ensure your child has access to and understands the importance of wearing a face covering where it is appropriate for them to do so and disposing of it appropriately.

MASKS on transport - A bin for the disposal of face coverings will be at the 3 entrance doors. Reusable face masks must be doffed correctly and placed in their personal plastic bag. Parents, you are advised to wash reusable ones daily and in educating your child/ren on the safe doffing and donning of reusable masks.

Hand and Respiratory Hygiene – it is advised that pupils carry a personal supply of tissues for home to school transport as well as washing hands before leaving school and upon arrival at home.

Temperature checks

Every pupil and every adult entering the school must have their temperature checked upon arrival. Thermometers will be stationed at every entrance. The checks will be done using thermometers which do not require any form of contact. The member of staff who is bringing the pupils into school will record the readings. Any temperature reading which is above 37.8 degrees will be recorded and this person will be taken to an isolated space and supervised for 15 minutes when the temperature check will be redone. If the temperature continues to remain above 37.8 degrees after the retest, then the pupil/adult will be sent home.

Medical or dietary requirements

Please make contact with the school immediately either via email or phone if your child has any allergies or conditions for which we do not hold a record.

Please be reminded that we have a number of pupils who have severe reactions if exposed to the following foods **EGGS, LEGUMES, KIWIS, NUTS, COCONUTS**. **PLEASE DO NOT send any of these items in your child's lunch or for breaktime snack**. Remind your child/ren not to share their food or receive food from anyone else for this specific reason.

Attendance (see attachment)

The Revised New School Day Guidance states that attendance is to be considered mandatory. As of 1st August 2020, shielding was 'paused'. Please follow the advice of the hospital consultant or GP. If your child/ren live in a household where members were considered extremely clinically vulnerable (at high risk of severe illness and require 'shielding'), then an individual risk assessment needs to be completed. If you believe that your child/ren falls into this category, please make contact with the Principal before your child attends.



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And finally.....

Thank you for your support and team effort as we strive to bring our children back to school. The challenges and difficulties Covid-19 has brought, continue to impact all of our lives significantly. Your co-operation in talking to and educating your children in the practice of good hand and respiratory hygiene is imperative.

We will prioritise a daily focus, on the mental health and well-being of our pupils as a structured part of their day. Remember to look after your Mental Health and Well-Being too.

We all look forward to welcoming your children 'back to school' next week.

Kindest Regards,

C. Thompson

Mrs. C Thompson
Principal

Remember to look out for videos which will be posted on our school website this week giving you a tour of the school and procedures.



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What to do if.....	Action needed	Return to school when....
<i>My child has coronavirus symptoms</i>	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Contact school daily Self-isolate Get a test Inform school immediately about test result	The test comes back negative and they are fever free for 48 hours.
<i>My child tests positive for coronavirus</i>	Inform the school immediately about the test result DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Contact school daily Self-isolate for at least 10 days	They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of taste of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once infection is gone. If they continue to have a high temperature they should stay at home.
<i>Somebody in my household has coronavirus symptoms</i>	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL for 14 days Contact school daily Household member to get a test Inform the school immediately about the test result	Stay at home for 14 days after the first person in your home started having symptoms.
<i>Somebody in my household has tested positive with Coronavirus</i>	Inform the school immediately about the test result DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Contact school daily	The child has completed 14 days of self-isolation
<i>The Track and Trace scheme has identified my child as a close contact of somebody with symptoms of confirmed coronavirus</i>	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Contact school daily Self-isolate for 14 days	The child has completed 14 days of self-isolation
<i>My child has travelled abroad and has to self-isolated as part of the quarantine process</i>	Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Contact school daily Self-isolate for 14 days Provide information to the school as per attendance policy	When the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed
<i>Staff or pupils in my child's bubble have tested positive</i>	Inform the school DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL Everyone in the bubble must self-isolate and take a test.	When a negative test is confirmed or the necessary isolation period has been completed.



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EA – Guidance on Home to school transport for schools during Covid-19
18th August 2020

Help us to help your pupils

Here are the things that your pupils can do to help keep themselves, and others, safe on their journey:

- ✓ Wash their hands regularly and especially before you get on a vehicle.
 - ✓ Use hand sanitizer when they get on board if it is provided.
 - ✓ Wear a face covering when they can.
 - ✓ Catch It, Bin It, Kill it! Carry tissues, cover coughs and sneezes.
 - ✓ Fill seats from the back and sit apart if possible. If not, sit with a sibling or another pupil from the same class, year or school. Try to sit in the same seat each day.
 - ✓ Give other passengers their space when queuing, and getting on and off the vehicle
-
- ✗ DO NOT travel if you are experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19 [symptoms](#) or your household has been advised to isolate. If a child is displaying symptoms our EA driver may speak to a parent about making alternative arrangements.
 - ✗ DO NOT share phones or other personal items with other passengers.
 - ✗ DO NOT eat or drink on board (unless it is required for medical purposes).
 - ✗ DO NOT approach the driver.
 - ✗ DO NOT litter. Take any rubbish with you and dispose of it safely.

We recognise that some of these steps may not be possible; particularly for children with a special educational need.



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2020/21 Strabane Controlled Primary School Calendar

August 2020						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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30	31					

September 2020						
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October 2020						
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November 2020						
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December 2020						
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27	28	29	30	31		

January 2021						
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31						

February 2021						
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28						

March 2021						
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April 2021						
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May 2021						
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June 2021						
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July 2021						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

School Closed
Half Day