



Coagh Primary School

31 Urbal Road, Coagh, Cookstown, BT80 0DW

www.coaghprimaryschool.com

Telephone: 02886737676

Principal: Mr I Bayne B.Ed.(Hons), PQH (NI)

E-mail: ibayne452@c2kni.net

Returning to School after Summer Holidays

17th August 2021

Dear parent(s),

We hope you have had an opportunity to enjoy some of the glorious weather that we have had during the summer holidays and that all our pupils are looking forward to returning to school after the Summer holidays.

As a school we are still waiting on updated guidance ahead of the new academic year and when we receive this we will communicate any implications with yourselves as quickly as possible.

The purpose of this information letter is to give some clarity for all our school community ahead of the new academic year.

Please take a few minutes to carefully read this letter which will help make the return of pupils after the summer holidays as smooth a transition as possible.

1. Key Dates

Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th August- Staff Training days

Thursday 26th August- New P1 pupils beginning school (9am – 12noon)

Friday 27th August- All pupils in school (9am – 12 noon) Flexible drop off from 8.30am

Monday 30th August- School closed for Bank Holiday

Tuesday 31st August- All pupils in school (9am – 3pm) Flexible drop off from 8.30am, Fun Club P2 and P3 1.45pm – 3pm and Homework Club 3pm – 5.30pm

Still waiting clarification on whether school dinners are available on Tuesday- pupils might need to bring a packed lunch

Wednesday 1st September- All pupils in school (9am – 3pm) Flexible drop off from 8.30am, Fun Club P2 and P3 1.45pm – 3pm and Homework Club 3pm – 5.30pm. School dinners available for all pupils.

1. Covid-19 Prevention

It is essential that all children are reminded of the significance of personal hygiene as they return to school, particularly around the importance of regular handwashing.

Children will be requested by staff to wash their hands regularly throughout the school day.

All pupils should bring their own hand sanitiser bottle to school which will remain on their desk during the day. (Hand sanitiser will be used with supervision by staff). Please practice using hand sanitiser with your child at home before returning to school.

Hand sanitiser will also be readily available throughout the school and the children will be encouraged to make use of it.

The children will be instructed to follow good respiratory hygiene, following the principle of ‘**Catch it, Bin it, Kill it**’ and will be discouraged from touching their eyes, face, nose and mouth. All pupils should bring their own packet of tissues to school.



If your child is displaying any of the symptoms of Covid-19, they should **stay at home** and follow the latest Public Health advice. (Symptoms include: raised temperature, persistent cough, loss of taste and loss of smell)

If there is a confirmed case of someone in the school having the Covid-19 Virus, the school will follow the latest PHA advice regarding self-isolating, class bubbles etc.

2. Arriving to School

Please enter the school grounds by the front ‘pedestrian’ entrance and depart via the gate at the church hall. There will be a staff member available for directions at the beginning

We will be operating a 'flexible' timeslot for pupils arriving at school in the morning. This should avoid the congestion of a large number of pupils arriving at school at one time. We encourage as many people as possible to walk to school. If you live outside walking distance, we hope you will consider 'park and stride', there are many parking spaces available in the main village square and it is a short distance to school.

Please avoid parking in front of the school along the 'zig zag' lines. This area will be used for those with a disabled parking permit because the front gates of the school car park will remain closed throughout the day.

Pupils may be left at school between **8.30am – 9.00am. (There is no 'Early Bird Club')**

Upon arrival, pupils must walk directly to their classroom, entering via the same doors as last academic year.

P1/2- Pupils should use the P1 cloak room door.

P2/3 Pupils should use the Resource room door.

P4- Pupils should use the Front door.

P5/6- Pupils should use the Front door.

P7- Pupils should use the Front door until new classroom is ready.

Teachers/Assistants will be present to greet the pupils as they arrive.

Before entering the classroom, pupils must use the hand sanitiser provided.

Parents/Visitors are **not permitted** to enter the school building, this will be reviewed after the first few weeks.

P1 parents can take their child to their classroom for the first few days.

Pupils **will not** be using the playground area for play before school.

3. Break/Lunchtime Routines

Initially in school, all pupils will remain in a 'bubble' with their own class. This will be reviewed after the first few weeks once we see what the implications are of any revised guidance.

Each class will eat their healthy break in the classroom (Please send in daily with your child)

Break Time will remain 10.30 am – 10.45 am and all pupils will remain in a 'bubble' with their own class in their individual class 'play zone' in the playground.

It is essential that coats are brought to school by pupils every day. Pupils will be brought outside during break time, irrespective of the weather, to allow time away from the classroom. (Except in extreme circumstances).

Lunch Time has been extended and will run from 12 noon – 1pm. Details of where pupils will eat their school dinners will be confirmed soon. Last year all school dinners were served in each classroom.

4. Catering

At present we are still waiting on a dinner menu for the Week beginning on Monday 30th August.

A copy of the school menu will be sent out as soon as it is made available to us. Like last year, please ensure that all dinner orders are made on a Monday morning and that the correct money is put in a labelled envelope for your child's teacher to collect.

P2-P7 pupils can avail of school dinners from the week beginning Monday 30th August.

Pupils having packed lunches should bring their packed lunch in a lunchbox or disposable packaging and this will be stored in the classroom. **(*Please ensure that all lunchboxes are washed daily*)**

5. End of School Day

School finishing times will be as follows.

P1 Pupils will finish at 12 noon for the first two weeks, 1pm for second two weeks of September and should be collected from the resource room entrance in the school playground.

P2-P3 Pupils will finish at 1.45pm

P2/3 Pupils will finish at 1.45pm and should be collected from the resource room entrance in the school playground.

P4-P7 Pupils will finish at 3pm

P4 pupils will finish at 3pm and should be collected from the 'staff car park' at the front door.

P5/6 Pupils will finish at 3pm and should be collected from the resource room entrance in the school playground.

P7 Pupils will finish at 3pm and should be collected from the 'staff car park' at the Assembly Hall Exit until their new classroom is ready.

School policy continues to be that any pupil in P1-P3 must be collected by a named adult on the School 'Pick Up' Form which will be submitted at the beginning of this academic year. If there are any changes to 'normal' collection procedures, please contact the school office. If your P4-P7 child is walking home, please ensure that School 'Pick Up' Form has been amended to reflect this (It is also a good idea to contact the school to ensure that staff know which day your child is walking home. If staff are in any doubt, then we will keep your child in school and contact you.)

*Regardless of the weather, all children will be brought outside by their class teacher at the end of the school day to the designated 'collection point'. When a staff member sees you we will send your child to you. *

6. Early Bird, Fun Club and Homework Club

Early Bird Club is unable to operate at present and will be replaced with flexible drop off from 8.30am like last academic year.

Fun Club- The advice is to limit social interaction as much as possible so if you are able to collect your child at 1.45pm then you are strongly encouraged to do so. If you require your P1-P3 child to attend Fun Club 1.45pm-3pm then please ensure that you send £1 (daily cost) in a labelled envelope. When collecting your child from Fun Club please come to the Assembly Hall exit door and knock.

Homework Club (3pm – 5.30pm)- The advice is to limit social interaction as much as possible so if you are able to collect your child at 3pm then you are strongly encouraged to do so. If you require your child to attend Homework Club 3pm – 5.30pm then please send money in a labelled envelope at the beginning/end of the week. When collecting your child from Homework Club please come to the Front Door of the school and 'Buzz' or go to the Assembly Hall Exit door and 'knock'.

7. School Uniform / Belongings

The majority of our school uniform is 'generic' and can be purchased from any retail outlets. The 'branded' Polo Shirts and School Jumpers are available to purchase from Wallace's (Formerly Kee's in Cookstown).

All pupils (P1-P7) should wear PE Uniform each Wednesday. PE Uniform consists of Trainers, Plain black/navy Tracksuit bottoms/leggings to be worn with school polo shirt and school jumper.

At this time of the year many pupils decide to wear 'Summer Uniform' which can include plain grey/black shorts and summer dresses (Navy or Blue check).

Pre-Loved Uniform Items are also available from the Parents Association. More details will be sent out soon.

Please ensure all items of uniform are labelled with your child's name

Pupils should ensure that they have all the items they need on a daily basis in their school bag, pencil case and lunch box as stationery items shouldn't be shared amongst pupils during the school day.

Pupils should hang their coats and additional changes of clothes on their coat peg when they enter the building in the morning.

Individual water bottles are permitted and encouraged in school.

8. Returning items

Could all pupils please check their school bags from last year and return any school reading books and resources when they return to school.

9. Remote Learning

As yet we don't know what the advice is regarding self-isolating and class bubble but should a class need to self-isolate then the pupils in that class will revert back to 'remote learning' via Seesaw. Details will be communicated to you via Seesaw / School Text Message if/when this is required.

10. Familiarisation

We understand that this is an extremely anxious time for parents and children. If your P1-P7 child is extremely anxious and you feel that they would benefit from a short familiarisation visit on Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th or Wednesday 25th August, then please ring the school to arrange a short visit.

11. Individual Hand Sanitiser and Tissues

You know your child's skin best and with this in mind please send a bottle of hand sanitiser (Labelled with your child's name) which will remain in school to be used by your child under supervision by their teacher. Hand Sanitiser is also available from the 'Sanitising Stations' at all entrance/exit points in school. Please ensure your child has tissues with them to use on a daily basis. These can remain in school or in your child's schoolbag.

12. Health

While the situation in NI regarding Covid 19 continues to improve it does not mean that Covid 19 has disappeared. It is likely that during the first few weeks of your child returning to school that they might develop those 'bugs' that are so prevalent with younger children in close proximity. This will certainly be the case after the prolonged period of non-contact with their peers. Please 'use caution' and follow the advice of the PHA and if your child is displaying ANY SYMPTOMS OF COVID 19 please contact the PHA or your GP and do not send your child to school.

All arrangements will be kept under review and any changes will be communicated to you as and when appropriate and/or necessary. If you have any other queries or questions relating to the reopening of school that have not been answered through the information provided, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Mr I. Bayne
Principal
Coagh Primary School
ibayne452@c2kni.net