



Ballyhenry Primary school

Updated Autumn 2020 Family Friendly Restart Plan

It is so exciting to be able to think about returning to school after such a long time apart. We can't wait to see you! School will look a little different this Autumn and we want to make sure that you understand what is going to happen. This is what we think is going to happen, but things might change. Don't worry we will be able to manage. After all, we are all in it together.

The Scientific Evidence

The coronavirus (Covid-19) is a new illness and scientists are still learning about it. So far, the research shows that:

- The severity of the disease in children is lower than in adults;
- Children are less likely to get the disease;
- There is no evidence to suggest children transmit this virus more than adults.



We know that you might catch the virus from respiratory droplets when we sneeze or cough. So we are going to have to be very careful in order to stay safe in school.

Here is how we are planning to reduce the risk.

If you are sick....

If someone is showing symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough or fever or loss of taste/smell) or has someone in their household who is displaying symptoms, they should not be in school. These individuals should be at home in line with the guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection and should follow guidance on the Public Health Agency website. You should let the school know as soon as you can that there is someone at home that is unwell. You should contact your GP to arrange to get a Coronavirus Test.

Hand Hygiene

Frequent hand hygiene can reduce risk of infection. We will wash our hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before and after any activity, such as mealtimes, break times and sporting activities. Children should wash their hands before they leave home and when they return from school. You can also sanitize your hands. Children can bring their own hand sanitizer, but we will have some in school.



Respiratory Hygiene (Catch It - Bin It - Kill It)



Staff, carers, children and young people should avoid touching their mouth, eyes and nose. They should cover the mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when they cough or sneeze. Tissues should be placed in a disposable rubbish bag and hands should be cleaned immediately with soap and water or hand sanitizer. If a tissue is not available people should sneeze into the crook of their elbow.

Cleaning surfaces that are touched frequently

To prevent the indirect spread of the virus from person to person, it is important to regularly clean frequently-touched surfaces, such as:

- door handles
- handrails
- table tops
- play equipment
- toys
- electronic devices (such as iPads)



This also means that we have to be very careful about what we touch! School work will be prepared in advance and marking will be delayed for 24 hours. Each child will be given a tote box with a lid. We will keep all their essential materials in this box including, books, pencils, playdough, whiteboards, practical materials. These materials must not be shared. You will get a list of school supplies for your child to bring to school and leave here. We would like to thank you for helping us with this! Their boxes will be disinfected after use.

Uniform Requirements

We know that shopping is a little difficult these days and trying on shoes can be challenging! We are also aware that the virus can live on clothing and therefore what we wear will need to be washed nightly (where possible). For this reason, the uniform rules will be relaxed until at least October half-term. Even the staff might look a little less formal when you come back to school!

- Children will be expected to wear the school jumper and polo shirt.
- Children can wear school trousers/skirts or black tracksuit bottoms.
- Children should wear school shoes or trainers.
- All children should have a pair of wellie boots in school.
- Children must have appropriate outerwear as going outside is essential for the cleaning routine. They will go outside in most weather conditions.

At this stage our primary concern will be for everyone's health and safety but of course, you are more than welcome to send your child to school in full uniform.

School Equipment

- No school bags please
- Lunch in wipe-able containers/lunchboxes
- Pencil cases should be left in school. They should have their own pencils to use at home.
- Masks/face coverings are not required for children while in the building. However, if you or your child feels safer wearing one that is your choice. See below for further details.

PPE and Face Covering

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.

PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE RECOMMENDS THAT FACE COVERINGS ARE USED IN PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES - SHORT PERIODS IN ENCLOSED SPACES WHERE SOCIAL DISTANCING IS NOT POSSIBLE. CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) USUALLY SPREADS BY DROPLETS FROM COUGHS, SNEEZES AND SPEAKING. THESE DROPLETS CAN ALSO BE PICKED UP FROM

SURFACES, IF YOU TOUCH A SURFACE AND THEN YOUR FACE WITHOUT WASHING YOUR HANDS FIRST. THE BEST AVAILABLE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE IS THAT, WHEN USED CORRECTLY, WEARING A FACE COVERING MAY REDUCE THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS DROPLETS IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, HELPING TO PROTECT OTHERS WHILE ALSO PROVIDING SOME PROTECTION TO THE WEARER. BECAUSE FACE COVERINGS ARE MAINLY INTENDED TO PROTECT OTHERS, NOT THE WEARER, FROM CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) THEY'RE NOT A REPLACEMENT FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING AND REGULAR HAND WASHING.

DENI RESTART GUIDANCE 13/08/20

PPE will be used by staff for intimate care, during medical support (i.e. accidents or giving medicine) or when supporting a symptomatic pupil.

Face Covering will be optional for staff and pupils except for in very specific situations.

These include:

- Face coverings are strongly recommended for all pupils on buses, trains and taxis. They are mandatory for staff and pupils over the age of 13 years.
- Adults must wear them while in the staff room and for meetings lasting more than 15 minutes

We are happy for any pupil or member of staff to wear a face covering routinely during the school day. We trust that these masks will be appropriate (i.e. not offensive in design) and used safely.

Social Distancing

THE EXECUTIVE, ON 6 AUGUST 2020, AGREED THAT THE STRINGENT APPLICATION OF SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN PUPILS WILL BE RELAXED FROM 17 AUGUST. PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE WITH RESPECT TO SOCIAL DISTANCING OF 2METRES (2M) WILL REMAIN IN PLACE BETWEEN ADULTS AND AS FAR AS POSSIBLE BETWEEN ADULTS AND PUPILS. SCHOOLS SHOULD ENDEAVOUR STRENUOUSLY TO IMPLEMENT AS MUCH SOCIAL DISTANCING AS IS PRACTICAL WHERE PHYSICAL CAPACITY AND CURRICULUM DELIVERY PERMIT.

DENI RESTART GUIDANCE 13/08/20

This is because the scientists know that the virus spreads more easily when we are in close contact with each other. Schools have been told to put in place systems that will ensure that we are all as safe as we can be. This includes:

- Staggered Entry
- One-way system
- Safe use of the toilets (i.e. 2 children at a time)
- Use of outdoor spaces
- Altered classroom setup
- Use of Social Bubbles
- Rolling Breaks and Lunch
- Staggered Exit



Staggered Entry (Drop and Go)

- All children must enter by the front door.
- Children can come to school between 8:45 and 9:15. While coming into school they must adhere to the social distancing markings outside school.
- They will have their temperature checked. Any child with a temperature above 37.8°C will not enter the classroom as this is one of the symptoms of the Coronavirus. Instead they will wait in isolation and be returned home as soon as possible (in accordance with the government guidelines).
- They will spray their hands with hand sanitizer and move through the one-way system to class.
- All children must be left at the door. It is only in an emergency (i.e. collecting an injured or very sick child) that parents should enter the building.
- Parents may be able to enter school by appointment only.



One Way System



Like in many shops, schools have been told to set-up a one-way system to help to ensure that groups don't pass each other. This has been marked out in school and we will work together to ensure that we stick to it. The main door will be the point of entry and the other two doors will be exit only. You can watch our video on the Facebook page or the school website to find out more. Occasionally it may be ok for people in school to disregard the one-way system (i.e. when you are going to the toilet or when returning from hanging up their coat).

Safe use of the toilets (i.e. 2 children at a time)

Only two children will be able to use the toilet at a time. This is to ensure social distancing. We will help the children understand that they need to wait outside if there is someone else in the toilet. Younger children will be supervised in this activity.

Use of outdoor spaces



Scientists have found that the virus is less likely to spread outside. Teachers will make as much use of the outdoor space as they can. Pupils will need to ensure that they are appropriately dressed on a daily basis. Wellie boots are a must and can be left in school for frequent use. Activities such as PE and music will only be able to take place outside. In addition, classrooms are being cleaned throughout the day. Children will be expected to go outside even if the weather isn't too nice. We need your help to ensure they are properly dressed. We will also set up Gazebos in the playgrounds. There will be one for each class and this will be their outdoor classroom base.

Altered classroom setup

The classrooms have been set up to maximize space and allow the maximum number of children and adults to remain in the same bubble. Adults need to attempt to remain 2m apart from each other where possible even when in the same bubble. Social distancing between adults and children in the same bubble has now been relaxed. This means that

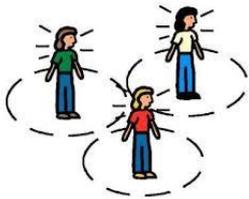


things might be a little different in class but teachers and classroom assistants will try to make things as normal as possible.

Equipment in the Classroom

How we use equipment will also change. We have removed unnecessary items and materials that are difficult to clean. Each child will have their own box. It will contain all of their personal equipment, books and resources. Anything that is shared will need to be cleaned or quarantined for 72 hours after use. Each class was given a list of equipment in June. These can be viewed on our website.

Use of Social Bubbles



In order to reduce the risk of transmission between everyone in the school we will be using social bubbles (Self-Contained Cohorts). Children in a bubble must only have contact (1m must be adhered to where possible) with others in their bubble. Remember that when bubbles touch each other they usually break! We cannot allow our bubbles to touch. This means that children will need to stay with their own class to work, play and eat. We will do our best to protect our bubbles. This

means that children and staff must stay in their bubble.

Bubbles matter due to “track and trace”. If someone gets sick and tests positive the whole bubble must go home and remain at home in isolation with their household for 14 days.

Rolling Breaks and Lunch

In order to keep our bubbles safe, we must ensure that children have minimal contact with other pupils in the school. Breaks will be staggered to ensure that only 2 bubbles are in a playground at any one time. Children will be kept separate from other classes as they move through the school due to the one-way system.

Lunchtimes will be timetabled to ensure social distancing. At the moment, this means that school dinners will be a packed lunch served in the classroom. We hope to move to hot dinners as quickly as we safely can do so. Please keep in mind that we need to consider the canteen staff’s safety as well as the children. In a very small kitchen producing more than 300 dinners this is difficult to do! Again, thank you for your understanding as we work through how this will now function.

We have a plan for these transition times to ensure that we minimize the contact between pupils.

Staggered Exit (Meet and Leave)

Departure will be staggered to help ensure social distancing. You will note that we have temporarily altered our dismissal times so that all children will go home each day between 2:00 and 2:30 daily. This is to accommodate families as siblings will go home at the same time.

It is essential for all stakeholders to maintain social distancing. This includes toddlers who should not be allowed to climb on the playground or run about the field. We are not trying to stop them from having fun, but we have been told that we will need to clean anything that is touched by those outside the

bubble. There is no easy way to do this except to rub down every surface.... can you imagine how long this would take!

- Gates will be locked until 1:45 as outdoor learning may be taking place.
- Parents/carers must maintain social distancing while waiting to collect their children. Please stand on the designated waiting spots (blue feet), follow the arrows and leave the school premises quickly to give room for other families.
- Climbing equipment should not be used by younger siblings waiting for collection.
- Older children will be dismissed from their class early and move to meet their younger siblings. They must maintain social distancing from others but can be in close proximity with their sibling.
- Staff and children will move aside if children are not collected to allow other classes to go out.
- Junior Gate will be closed and locked by the P4 teacher at 2:40.
- Children waiting for collection will be taken to the assembly hall and sit at the dinner tables where they will be supervised while contact is made with their parents for collection.



2:00 to 2:30 Meet and Leave			
JR Playground		SR Playground	
2:00-2:15	2:15-2:30	2:00-2:15	2:15-2:30
2:00 P2 & Siblings 2:10 P3 & Siblings	2:20 P4 & Siblings 2:30 P1 & Siblings	2:05 P5B & Siblings 2:15 P5F & Siblings	2:25 P6 & Siblings 2:30 P7

Blended Learning & Online Learning

Blended Learning is when children spend some of their time in school and the rest of the time learning from home. **Online learning** takes place when a child is only able to access learning from home. These are put in place when normal class-based learning cannot take place.

Blended Learning

Social distancing in school has been relaxed and Blended Learning will not be required. However, DENI has asked schools to have a Blended Learning Plan in case the situation changes. There will be a clear framework that outlines each child's learning. Children will then be expected to return the work to be marked and assessed. Support will also be provided online via Fronter and through Zoom.



Online Learning



The government has determined that schools should reopen for all pupils. However, some children may not be able to attend school. This might be because they are clinically extremely vulnerable, are self-isolating due to contact tracing or because they need to stay at home because they are unwell. For these children we plan to upload learning links and work will be provided on a weekly basis. Parents/carers will be able to collect paper packs to support learning. It will continue to be possible to return work digitally via the app, Fronter and on paper.

Vulnerable Pupils

A SMALL MINORITY OF CHILDREN MAY BE DESIGNATED CLINICALLY VULNERABLE AND PARENTS SHOULD FOLLOW MEDICAL ADVICE FROM THEIR HOSPITAL CONSULTANT IF THEIR CHILD IS IN THIS CATEGORY. WHERE A CHILD IS MEDICALLY ADVISED NOT TO ATTEND

If your child is in the clinically vulnerable category you should contact school and arrange a meeting. Together we will complete a risk assessment and decide how best to mitigate the risk for your child. It would be very helpful if you could obtain written advice from your child's doctor to support our planning. Each situation is different and we will do our best to make things work.

Curriculum Restrictions

As children's time in school may be reduced, the curriculum will focus on core subjects. There are some subject areas that will need to be adjusted to reduce increased spread of infection.

- Literacy and Numeracy will be the main focus of school-based learning with WAU being taught through literacy and numeracy and supplemented by home-based projects.
- Modified Play Based and outdoor learning will be used extensively in P1 & P2. It will also support learning throughout the school.
- Music and in particular singing will not take place indoors.
- Indoor PE will not be available. Teachers may be able to do some outdoor PE.
- Children will remain in their own classrooms throughout the day so additional support will initially be restricted.
- We will not be able to meet in large groups. Assemblies will be done online with pupils while in class. We are still working on this technology but hope that we will be able to engage with pupils who are at home as well.

Returning to School

We are excited about the new normal! We are being directed by DENI regarding who can come to school and when they should start school. We have merged this with our pre-covid plan with new guidelines to maximize success.

Familiarisation

We know that many children may be nervous about returning to school. You should contact school the week of 17th August to arrange a pre-entry appointment if you feel your child needs this support.

- P1s will have individual familiarisation sessions the week beginning 24th August. Details will be emailed to each parent.
- P7 Pupils will begin school on Monday 24th August. Staggered Arrival (8:45 to 9:15) and departure at 2:00. Children need a packed lunch.
- P2 to P7 pupils in Bubble 1 should attend on Thursday 27th August from staggered Arrival (8:45 to 9:15) to Staggered departure between 12:00 and 12:30. No lunch.
- P2 to P7 pupils in Bubble 2 should attend on Friday 28th August from staggered Arrival (8:45 to 9:15) to Staggered departure between 12:00 and 12:30. No lunch.

	Mon. 24 th Aug	Tues. 25 th Aug	Wed. 26 th Aug	Thurs. 27 th Aug	Fri. 28 st Aug
P1 Pupils	Primary One pupils should attend by appointment to meet with their teacher and CA if applicable. We will be sending out these times shortly.				
P2 to P6 Pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vulnerable pupils should attend by appointment to meet with their teacher (and CA if applicable). We will be sending out these times shortly. Parents/carers are asked to contact the school if they feel that their child would benefit from a pre-entry tour. 			All Bubble 1 pupils attend 9:00-12:00 Staggered dismissal. 12:00 P2, P5 12:10 P3, P6 12:20 P4, P7 Older children will go home with their siblings	All Bubble 2 pupils attend 9:00-12:00 Staggered dismissal. 12:00 P2, P5 12:10 P3, P6 12:20 P4, P7 Older children will go home with their siblings
P7 Pupils	In school from Staggered arrival between 8:45-9:15 and departure at 2:00 p.m. Pls bring packed lunch.	In school from Staggered arrival between 8:45-9:15 and departure at 2:00 p.m. Pls bring packed lunch.	In school from Staggered arrival between 8:45-9:15 and departure at 2:00 p.m. Pls bring packed lunch.		

School Resumes

All pupils will return to school on Tuesday 1st September 2020.

- P1 pupils will attend in morning or afternoon bubbles 5 days per week. You will receive details of these arrangements during your familiarisation.
- P2 to P7 pupils will attend full time (5 days/week) in full class bubbles. There will be staggered arrival time (8:45 to 9:15) and departure times (2:00 to 2:30).
- Lunches will initially be served in the classrooms.

Attendance

WHILE IT IS HOPED THAT SCHOOLS WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE AS CLOSE TO MAXIMUM FACE-TO-FACE PUPIL ATTENDANCE AS POSSIBLE, IT IS FULLY APPRECIATED THAT THIS WILL PRESENT A RANGE OF CHALLENGES THAT MAY RESULT IN SOME PUPILS HAVING TO CONTINUE LEARNING FROM HOME INTERMITTENTLY.

DENI ATTENDANCE GUIDANCE 14/08/20

DENI expects all pupils to return to school in very special circumstance:

- pupils who have been advised by their medical teams to remain at home;
- pupils who have been required to self-isolate due to Track and Trace Guidelines;
- pupils who have an illness (including COVID-19).

As usual, attendance will be marked on a daily basis. Special arrangements have been made to record attendance for pupils who are learning from home. This includes compelling schools to collect evidence regarding the learning that has taken place. If sufficient evidence is not provided or if a pupil refuses to attend school due to COVID-19 fears schools must record these as Unauthorised Absence.

That said, we completely understand that parents and pupils have legitimate concerns. Please arrange a meeting to discuss your worries and we will do our best to work with you and your child. We can put

bespoke programmes in place to address individual pupil needs. Please don't face your fears alone. We do understand and want to work with you.

School Dinners

We are working with the canteen staff to ensure that we are able to develop the best and safest method for providing lunch for our pupils. We are using social bubbles to minimise the risk posed by the Coronavirus. The best way to protect these bubbles at present is to have all children remain in the classroom for lunch. Those who order a paid lunch or who are entitled to Free School Meals will have their lunch delivered to the classroom. This is a temporary measure and we hope to resume hot dinners in the canteen as soon as it is safe and practical to do so.

Breakfast Club and B'Happy

At present the guidelines state that social bubbles should not be broken. (i.e. children cannot interact with one group of children before/after school and be in a class bubble during the day). We are looking at ways that we can operate our wrap-around care. This will necessitate a change of operations including strict use of social bubbles, social distancing within a shared space, extensive use of the outdoor space and an increase in staffing. These plans are being developed and we plan to be able to start these services no later than mid-September

Final Note

Communication is important. We are doing our best to keep you informed via our app & Facebook Page. Please ensure that you have a way to stay up to date. Newsletters come out every Sunday evening. It is essential that you read this thoroughly. Remember that even though things might look a little different, there will be many things that will be very familiar. You will be greeted with a smile; you will do your spellings and tables. You will work a little, play a little and we hope, laugh a lot. Things may change as we go along but working together, we will find a way to make it work. If you have any questions or concerns, please get in contact via email lknocker496@c2kni.net.

Thank you for your support as we work together to build our new normal school day.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- SCHOOL STARTS FOR P7 ON 24/08/20;
- P2 TO P6 WILL START ON 27/08/20 OR 28/08/20;
- ALL CHILDREN MUST ENTER BY THE FRONT DOOR;
- PUPILS AND STAFF ONLY IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING;
- FULL TIME SCHOOL WILL RESUME ON 01/09/20 FOR P2-P7 PUPILS.
- P1 PUPILS WILL BE GIVEN A LITTLE LONGER TO SETTLE IN AND WILL RETURN TO SCHOOL IN MORNING/AFTERNOON BUBBLES.
- SOCIAL DISTANCING AND INFECTION CONTROL MEASURES WILL BE IN PLACE;
- ANYONE WHO IS ILL SHOULD NOT ATTEND SCHOOL AND FOLLOW PHA GUIDANCE FOR TESTING, TRACK AND TRACE.
- FIRST NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW TERM WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ELECTRONICALLY ON SUNDAY 23RD AUGUST 2020.

