



Welcome Back!

25th August 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope you have all had a relaxing summer break and are looking forward to a new school year. Whilst we are cautiously hopeful that it will be somewhat smoother than the last two academic years, it is incumbent on us to continue to play our part to ensure that our school can remain fully functional and your child's education avoids further disruption.

Below are some key, whole school reminders ahead of the first day of the new term tomorrow. Your child's class teacher will be in touch later this afternoon through Clasdojo, with more specific information about what your child can expect in the year ahead.

Drop off/Pick Up Arrangements

Your child's class teacher will outline exactly where you should drop off and pick up your child each day. In an effort to mitigate the risks of spreading the virus, we ask all adults on school grounds to continue to wear face coverings and avoid congregating at the school gates once you have collected your child.

Additional car parking will be available in Henry Jones and the Y5 playground (2.30pm pick up only). Please do not park in the clearly marked area for the school bus at any time.

The School Day

We have carefully considered the DE Education Restart Guidance, developed in partnership with the Public Health Agency, in order to provide a safe learning environment for your child. We are aiming to return to a more flexible curriculum delivery and will be continuing to make good use of our vast outdoor space to enable our children to work together creatively.

Parents should be aware that whilst the policy of class bubbles is no longer an essential requirement, any activities involving the mixing of children from different classes will be carefully risk assessed and appropriate mitigations put in place.

All children are permitted to wear **black** tracksuit bottoms, shorts or leggings to school with trainers or plimsolls when it is their P.E. day. Your child's class teacher will inform you on what days this will take place.

Break and lunch time arrangements will continue as per last year. School meals are available from Thursday 24th August, the menu will be available on Facebook this afternoon.

Please remember the school bus service does not resume until Wednesday 1st September, the first operational day for Translink school transport.

Children Presenting with Symptoms

We continue to request that parents exercise a 'common sense' approach when assessing whether their child is fit to attend school.

As during the last two academic years, if your child is presenting Covid symptoms, you **should not** send them to school, as would be the case with any other illness. If your child presents with symptoms, you will be contacted to take them home to avoid any potential risk to other children and staff.

At the time of writing, we are still awaiting official confirmation on the updated procedures for schools in the event of your child either testing positive or being identified as a close contact of a positive case. We are hopeful that if this occurs, your child will be able to return to school as soon as they have received a negative PCR test result.

Communication

Parental involvement is a cornerstone of what we do at Lough View and it is imperative that you feel involved in supporting your child to reach their full potential.

Please let us know when issues arise and we will seek to address them in a timely fashion.

Good Luck

The start of a new school year is always filled with excitement for children, parents and staff alike. We wish you and your child a successful and enjoyable year at Lough View, hopefully with as little disruption as possible.

As we have done so well in the past, let's continue to work in partnership together, in the best interests of all our children, as we continue to emerge from a very challenging period for the entire school community.

Regards

S Spillane

Principal