



Tuesday 30th June 2020

June News Update 2

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you all

As a school team we want to convey a huge **'thank you'** to you for all the support you have given to the staff and to the education of your children over these past months. Through effective working relationships and huge commitment **'Team RVIPS'** has been very evident. It has been a challenging journey as families and staff navigated the demands of work, home and home learning and we sincerely appreciate everyone's motivation to succeed and achieve.

We also want to **reassure you** that come September we will be initiating a 'recovery curriculum' and will take learning from where your child is at. **Health, safety and wellbeing** will be a priority as we **nurture** children into the 'new school day' with new routines and procedures.

What will the new term bring?

The Department of Education publication, 'Northern Ireland Re-opening Schools Guidance: New School Day' was issued on Friday 19th June 2020.

After much discussion with school colleagues and local principals, and with due regard to the CURRENT guidance, we have reached the following decisions to help us move forward during this continued time of uncertainty. The Chairperson, School Governors and I have agreed that the guidelines are a guide until further directives are issued from the DE.

Plans will possibly continue to be amended up until the end of summer.

I have outlined some **key information and dates** below, in line with current guidance.

Dates and Transition

- School will reopen on **Monday 24th August for our incoming P7 children**. An **induction week** (incorporating induction sessions) will focus on helping our P1 to P6 children settle back into the new school day and familiarise themselves with the adapted school environment. There will be an opportunity to spend time with this year's teacher and meet the new class teacher also. Pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs will be invited to attend an individual familiarisation session. Specific dates and times for all will be issued in due course.
- The school year starts on Tuesday 1st September. School calendar will be issued in due course.

Options

- Various options for re-opening are being discussed and explored. The current guidelines taking account of social distancing are listed under A, with the second option (if social distancing regulations are removed) under B.
Option A – 'Blended Learning' Children attend school 40% (2 days) of the time for face to face learning and teaching: We have split the children into 2 'bubbles'
Monday/Tuesday – The Roe Bubble
or Thursday/Friday – The Valley Bubble
Family groupings (to support child care and transport) and friendship groupings have been considered when splitting the children
Wednesday is a day for deep cleaning and for staff to facilitate remote learning. Specific days will be issued in due course, if required.
- **Option B** – Should social distancing regulations be removed by the end of August all children will be in school every day. They will stay in their **whole class bubble for everything**.
We are aware that the situation may change significantly over the summer resulting in options being amended and revised.

We trust that this gives some peace of mind and assure you that we will be in touch again by 20th August with confirmation. You know we will always do the best for our children and we cannot wait until we are all back together safely again.

Arrivals and Collections

- Arrangements regarding staggered pupil arrivals and collections may be necessary and details will be communicated in August if this were the case. Parents will possibly be required to remain outside the school buildings, unless specifically requested to enter.

Uniform

- Children are asked to wear a clean school uniform every day. PE uniform could be worn only in the event of a school uniform not being ready for the next school day. Please ensure that your child/ren change out of the school uniform immediately on arrival at home.

Class Teachers

- Class teachers will be announced in due course.

Stationery and School Bags

- Currently, school bags and other items from home should not be brought to school. The only exception to this is a pencil case (which is able to be wiped clean) with items appropriate to your child's needs (some items listed below). This will then be kept in school and will be used solely by your own child.

STATIONERY ITEMS REQUIRED	
P1 & P2 2 x Staedtler HB Jumbo Pencils 1 x Pack of Colouring Pencils Pritt Stick (no coloured Pritt please) 2 x Whiteboard pens	 P3 & P4 2 x Staedtler HB Pencils 1x Staedtler Pencil Eraser 1 x Pack of Colouring Pencils Pritt Stick (no coloured Pritt please) 2 x Whiteboard pens

Primary 5 to Primary 7	
6 x Staedtler HB Pencils 1 x Staedtler Pencil Eraser 1 x Pack of Colouring Pencils 2 x Black Handwriting Pens (good quality) 2x Blue Biro for self-corrections	 Pritt Stick (no coloured Pritt please) 2 x Highlighters 1 x 4GB USB Pen (P5 only) 2 x Whiteboard Pens 

School Meals and Transport

- No affirmed guidance has yet been issued to schools regarding school meals or transport. Details will follow as soon as they are known. Packed lunches should be in disposable packaging.

Please continue to reinforce the practice of **thorough and regular handwashing and appropriate social distancing**. Our school will further reinforce these practices by having clear policy and procedures in place when your child returns.

We will continue to communicate updated information when we have further guidance. Please continue to access the **school app** and **website** and follow school communications.

Please also be aware that the above information is **subject to change** in light of the evolving DE Guidance.

Parent/Pupil Surveys

Thank you to everyone who has taken time to complete our surveys to date. May I remind you that the 'Education Restart' survey has been sent out via a link on the school app and the parent/pupil surveys can be accessed via the questionnaires tab in the school app.

We appreciate your continued support and value your time in completing the surveys.

Our sincere hope is for a full return in September if guidance allows. We will strive to keep you informed of any relevant developments and we deeply appreciate your continued support and patience throughout this time.

We look forward to welcoming you back to Roe Valley Integrated PS in a safe and ready environment.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a safe and happy summer time, and I will very much look forward to seeing you and the children at the beginning of the new academic term.

Best wishes

Julie McDonagh

Principal