



St Malachy's Primary School Drummullan

St Malachy's Parents' Reopening
Handbook

Dear Parents/Guardians

Thank you for your continued patience regarding final plans for this academic year 2020/2021. We realise that like ourselves, many of you are eager to put childcare arrangements in place and are keen to get children back to school full time. I have included some practical information in this document.

Start Dates

The starting date for classes are as follows:

Primary 7 - Monday 24th August - Friday 28th August - from 9:30am - 12:30pm. Please note there will be **NO** dinners available during this week.

Reception & Primary 1 - Monday 31st August from 10am - 1pm
(P1 Children will be attending After Schools from 2:30pm - 3:30pm everyday)

Primary 2 - Tuesday 1st September - 9:35am - 3:30pm
(P2 Children will be attending After Schools from 2:30pm - 3:30pm everyday)

Primary 3 - Tuesday 1st September - 9:35am - 3:30pm

Primary 4 - Tuesday 1st September - 9:35am - 3:30pm

Primary 5 - Tuesday 1st September - 9:35am - 3:30pm

Primary 6 - Tuesday 1st September - 9:35am - 3:30pm

Primary 7 - Tuesday 1st September - 9:35am - 3:30pm

Health and Safety

Parents and members of the public will not be allowed to enter into the school building unless prior authorisation has been agreed by the

Principal. This is of vital importance to protect and ensure the Health, Safety and Wellbeing of everyone in our school and wider community.

Pupils will wash/sanitise their hands when they enter the classroom and will continue to do so throughout the day e.g. before eating their break, when returning from outside after break, before eating their dinner/lunch, when returning from outside after dinner, before and after PE, when requested to do so and before leaving at the end of the school day. We appreciate you demonstrating the washing of hands for at least 20 seconds with your child/children using liquid soap and water and drying them thoroughly. If your child/children have a prescription hand wash, we request that you send it into school for them to use.

We have the following measures in place:

- Regular handwashing
- Sanitising stations at entrance/exits
- Encouraging use of personal equipment and materials (see below)
- Limiting contact between groups of children
- Limiting visitors to the school

CHILD/ADULT DISPLAYING SYMPTOMS OR ILLNESS AT HOME

For everyone's safety please **DO NOT** bring child/children to school until a quarantine period is over.

CHILD DISPLAYING SYMPTOMS OR ILLNESS AT SCHOOL

Parent will be contacted immediately and asked to collect the child immediately.

Staff will be on duty at the entrance in the morning and will escort any young children or any children who may need support to their classroom. Parents will remain outside the entrances and we encourage you to remain socially distanced.

- At home time - Pupils who **ARE NOT** going home on the bus need to **BE COLLECTED** from school at **3:15pm SHARP**
- Parents should remain outside the school entrance and Pupils will be escorted out to you by a member of staff

We will be monitoring the arrangements to see if any changes are required. We ask all Parents to remain socially distanced at collection points and to leave as soon as they can to prevent a build-up of people at doors and gates. Please speak to your child/children about these arrangements.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SCHOOL DAY

Equipment

- Each child will be provided with a cleanable plastic tray/tub to keep all their belongings in
- All children should bring a pencil case with Pencils, Crayons/Colouring Pencils, Rubbers, a Sharpener and a Glue Stick. They can also include other pens etc. that they may use in school. These will be kept in the child's tray/tub and will be used only by them. **They will stay in school.** Children should have another pencil case at home for home use
- We are asking on the first days that children bring their own clearly labelled pocket-sized tissues and small hand sanitiser to keep in their trays for their own use.

HOMWORK

- There will be **NO** homework for the first few weeks until we make suitable arrangements as to how this can be done safely
- Children **WILL NOT** be allowed to bring in schoolbags initially

UNIFORM

- Children are required to wear school uniforms as usual which must be **WELL LABELLED** and encouraged to change when they go home each day. We would encourage clean uniforms as often as possible

BREAK AND LUNCH

- Children will be having break with their own class bubbles and will play together for a short time outside (weather permitting). Children must bring their own break. Remember our Healthy Break Policy
- For Lunch, pupils are asked to bring a lunchbox. These should be a hard washable material and we ask you to make sure they are cleaned every night. They will only be handled by your child. Alternatively, you can use disposable bags which will be binned each day or consider environmentally friendly alternatives
- Your child/children should also have their own clearly labelled water bottle which will stay with them. They will bring them home each day to be cleaned. They will again only be handled by your child and **CANNOT** be refilled at school
- The Water Fountain in both the Girls and Boys toilets are also **OUT OF USE**
- Dinner arrangements are still to be finalised and we will forward details in due course
- Pupils **WILL NOT** bring in or share food items e.g. birthday treats to distribute in class
- Currently it is advised that where possible PE occurs outside

- Pupils **WILL NOT** change for PE and should come in PE gear on their allocated day

FINALLY,

Returning to school after almost 6 months will be a challenging time for everyone, and Pastoral Care and settling back in safely will be an essential part of our initial return. The initial return will focus on Pastoral and Social elements as well as learning the new **COVID-19** protocols required within and around the school.

Returning to school will bring many new routines for our children, parents and staff. There will be limited movement around the school and class groups will remain in their own “bubbles” with staggered breaks and lunchtimes.

The school day will most certainly look different to what we were all familiar with prior to COVID-19. The ethos of the school however remains the same and will be a positive constant for the children returning/starting this forthcoming academic year. We look forward to welcoming all the boys and girls back so they can have the opportunity to learn lots of new and exciting things in a safe and happy environment

Kind Regards

Anne Bell

Principal