



## *Welcome back to a new school year!*

As we begin the 2021 / 22 academic year, I want to extend a warm welcome to our new Nursery pupils, our new pupils joining our P1 class and our new pupils who are joining our P2 and P3 classes. We look forward to seeing you thrive during your time in our school.

I have the privilege of congratulating members of staff who take up new roles within our team. We wish you the very best in the days to come with your new responsibilities.

I also want to say a big thank you to the staff who planned, prepped and led our Summer Scheme – the children who attended had a brilliant three weeks. There was a magnificent atmosphere and we are already planning for next year – even bigger and better!

Sorry for the delay in contacting you about the new term details. Many parents will be aware from the media that updated guidance from the Department of Education has just come through in the past days.

**Our school will look and feel very similar to how we finished in June. We will be retaining most measures including 'consistent groups' or 'bubbles' in school at this time but you will see some relaxations of our rules as outlined below.**

### **DE Covid Guidance**

All schools will continue to follow the Track and Trace procedures.

Please keep school informed of any changes and please DO NOT send a child into school who is displaying symptoms without first speaking / emailing the Principal or in his absence a Senior teacher.

Please email [ddunlop460@c2kni.net](mailto:ddunlop460@c2kni.net) , include a telephone number to contact you on and I will endeavour to come back to you as soon as possible to help get your child back into school as quickly as possible.

Any child who displays symptoms in school, without consultation with staff, will be sent home in line with guidance.

Current advice states that if your child has any of the recognised Covid symptoms, you should book a test for them and ensure that you keep school informed. Identified close contacts will need to isolate until they receive a negative PCR test. Following a negative result, a pupil/staff member will be able to return to school. We hope that this will mean we will not need to isolate full classes for such long periods of time.

The advice regarding testing and isolation may change in the coming weeks and we will keep you informed of any developments.

**Current guidance allows us to:**

- restart mini school assemblies.
- resume PE classes in the assembly hall.
- allow P1- 3 and P4 – 7 pupils to mix in the playgrounds.
- resume music lessons – tutors have been contacted and Mrs Sommerville will coordinate lessons.
- resume Afterschool Clubs – initially these will be organised by ActivityNI and team sports will resume as soon as possible.
- Resume MonkeyNastix's for P1 - 3 on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September (2 – 3pm) and each Friday for 13 weeks – booking form to follow.

Thank you for your support in the past year – it is important that parents continue to help us by playing their role in managing any potential cases of the virus in our school community.

**Drop Off Arrangements**

Nursery parents are welcome to drop their child off at the nursery entrance.

**P1 children may be escorted by one parent to class between 8.45 - 9:00am on the first three days of term. Individual circumstances will be discussed if required after this period.**

**P2 – 7 parents are asked to drop their child / children off at the school gate in the morning.**

(Either church car park for car drivers or the pedestrian gate for walkers).

Exceptional circumstances will be accommodated as best we can.

A member of staff will be at each gate to help.

Children will be supervised straight to class where they will sanitise their hands upon entry to the classroom.

**Pick Up Arrangements**

Children will be dismissed from the 'Blue Wall' in the same way as last term.

Parents will be asked to enter the school premises to collect their children at the arranged times.

**Car drivers via the Church car park gate and Walkers via the pedestrian entry gate.**

We will then ask you to leave via the same gate as you arrived. Staff will be on hand to advise.

Please do not enter the school grounds more than 5 minutes before your allocated time. Again we ask that only one parent collects their child and that you maintain a social distance as required in school of 2m. We respectfully ask parents/carers not to loiter when dropping off or collecting.

It is advised that all adults should wear a face mask or face covering at drop off and pick up times.

### **Healthy Break**

P1 - 7 will continue to bring a healthy break each day.

Pupils may bring a water bottle to sit on their desk / side of room throughout the day – we recommend a sports drink lid which reduce spillages.

### **School Bags/Stationery/PE**

School bags and pencil cases will be allowed in school, as guidance has stated this is of low risk.

PE kits are to be worn to school to avoid changing in school. In the coming days, each class teacher will advise on which day your child will have PE.

Younger classes are currently discussing how best to manage this as outdoor learning and PE is part of a daily routine – updates will come directly from your class teacher in due course, including when to send Wellies into school.

### **Lunches**

A dinner menu will follow and dinners are to be paid through our Parent Pay app. We will continue to serve dinner in our school hall in socially distanced groups.

### **Morning Club and Wrap Around Provision**

As from Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September, school will be able to offer **limited spaces** for Early Morning and After School Club (12-5pm).

We are able to do this by creating another 'bubble' area in the school building. Please be advised that this is classed as a 'Bubble' and therefore if there is a positive case due to Covid, PHA Track and Trace guidelines will be followed.

### **Early Morning Club**

We have a limited number of full time Breakfast slots. These will be pre booked and pre-paid for a term at a time. Please speak to Mr Dunlop or Ms Price for more details.

Flexible bookings for Breakfast Club can be made via our online forms which will be sent out via Seesaw and the school website weekly.

Number of spaces will be limited.

Doors open – 7.45am

**Pricing - £3 per hour – or £1 per 15 minutes.**

Children can only enter school via the school assembly hall external double doors.

### **Wrap Around Care**

We have a limited number of full time Breakfast slots. These will be pre booked and pre-paid for a term at a time. Please speak to Mr Dunlop or Ms Price for more details.

Flexible bookings for Wrap Around can be made via our online forms which will be sent out via Seesaw and the school website weekly.

Number of spaces will be limited.

Please note that new bookings will not accepted until previous bookings have been paid for.

**Pricing - £3 per hour – or £1 per 15 minutes.**

### **Permission Forms**

Your child will be sent home with a number of key documents including data collection, walking home permissions, internet and photography permissions and medical forms. These documents will need to be completed fully and returned to school as soon as possible.

A paper copy of the dinner menu will also be included.

### **Uniform**

We hope you have been able to source uniform for the school year ahead.

We have a large stock of 'as new' uniform items so if anyone finds that their child has mysteriously grown over the summer or a pair of trousers have a knee out of them on day one – don't panic we should have something in our large uniform box.

We will also continue to accept items – please pre wash and iron and send them in a sealed bag via the school office.

Teachers will notify parents of their child's PE days – children can wear their normal polo shirt and jumper / cardigan and wear a pair of plain track bottoms / leggings (black / navy / grey) and strong robust trainers to school on their allocated PE days.

Trainers are not part of our regular school uniform and in the new term we would ask that you return to using school shoes when possible.

A pair of old trainers can remain in school for playing football / games at break time or for outdoor play in the younger years, as has been the arrangement in previous years.

**Finally ...**

We have tried our best to give you all the information you require in one place but if there is anything we have missed or you wish to clarify we will be more than happy to help.

Ms Lindsay is now full time in the office so please ring or email her if you have any questions / queries or just want to go over something again in more detail.

**Finally, finally ...**

I can't believe a year has already passed since taking up the post. While it has been a whirlwind, it has also been a pleasure to get to know the children, their families and the staff.

I look forward to the year ahead and to share with you some exciting news and developments.

Kind regards,

David Dunlop  
Principal