



**2nd September
2021**



Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are delighted to welcome everyone back to school after our summer break. We are now part way through the first full week of our new academic year and everyone at school is busy with all the activities happening here. We know that school life is still far from normal at present and we too are aware that this has led to tremendous stress for staff and inconvenience for parents. Despite all this we are trying our very best to provide a safe and secure environment for your child to learn and develop. Thank you for your cooperation and thank you too for the many words of encouragement that you have given to me and individual staff members. That is truly appreciated.

In this letter we want to bring you up to date with a few immediate issues.

P4-P7 Friday Finish

Please remember that we are now operating an almost 'normal' timetable within school. **This means that P4-P7 now stay until 3pm each Friday.**

As always, we would encourage you to make use of the Masonic Hall and Vivo car parks in order to alleviate parking difficulties outside of school.

Seesaw

In our September newsheet I outlined how we plan to use 'Seesaw' as a tool to share with you. This will continue to bolster our home-school links. The app can be downloaded onto a computer, tablet or smartphone for your convenience. If you haven't signed up just yet, I would encourage you to do so. If you have any queries or problems, please contact me.

There is also the facility for you to message your teacher, however, I would respectfully ask you only to use this appropriately and sparingly. Please appreciate that a message sent to your child's teacher may not be seen until after school time. Any messages relating to absences, appointments, meals or transport should still be directed to the school office by telephone or email jhutchinson430@c2kni.net

Throughout this year we want to use Seesaw to share photographs with you of your child completing class activities. At times these might be group activities that have other pupils from your child's class in them too. I would therefore like to seek your permission regarding this. **Please message your child's teacher stating whether or not you are happy for your child's photograph to be used in this way.**

Birthday cakes

There is always great excitement when we have a birthday within our class. In the past, especially in pre-covid-19 times, some children brought a birthday cake in from home for their class mates to enjoy. In recent years we have found this more difficult to manage, especially with the increasing number of food allergies that a few children have. Covid-19 regulations have also encouraged us to minimise what comes into school from home.

With this in mind, **we respectfully ask you not to send cakes or equivalents into school.** We will continue to ensure that your child's birthday is recognised within the class. We do hope that you understand.

Break and Lunch money

We want to thank you all for helping our teachers and dinner staff by writing menu choices and **sending the correct change** at the start of this week. This proved to be a very manageable system for our kitchen team.

We know that it is not always easy for you to produce the correct change, however, we really appreciate your cooperation and patience with this.

Please remember to **send Coaching for Christ money in a separate envelope.** This will avoid extra work for our kitchen staff.

We are hoping that the EANI will introduce a 'parent-pay' online payment system later this academic year. This new system will make payments much easier for you and us.

Mrs Stewart

I can finally confirm that Mrs Stewart is officially taking early retirement as of 1st September 2021. She will be greatly missed by us all within our Clough community.

We would obviously want to celebrate her 35 years here as a teacher, colleague and friend. A number of parents have already asked me about a future gift for her. I will write to you shortly regarding this and suggest how you could make a contribution towards such a gift.

In the meantime, we wish her a happy and peaceful retirement and trust that Mrs Nelson will have many enjoyable years here as a teacher.

We continue to wish you and your families God's blessing and safety in the days to come.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr I Hutchinson

Principal