Dear Parents,

It’s a whole new world! Staff met today in school and we hope the following information puts your mind at ease and answers some of your questions. Although there will be considerable change to everyone’s school day this year we will strive to make our school environment as safe, comfortable and as happy as it can be.

Our Minister of Education, Peter Weir asked us to start the school year with Primary 7 and so they will be in from the week beginning 24th August. School starts for all our children on Tuesday 1st September.

Our New School Day

**Arrival**: Between 8:45 and 9am children arrive in school. Parents are asked to remain in their cars and allow their children to walk directly to their designated entrance.

Classes should use the following entrances:

Orange Room children – P1 Side Gate

Purple Room children – Outdoor Classroom

Yellow Room children – Yellow Room Cloakroom

Blue Room children – Resource Area Door

Green & Red Room children - KS2 Cloakroom Door

Following government regulations **EACH CLASS WILL FORM ITS OWN BUBBLE AND AS FAR AS POSSIBLE THESE BUBBLES WILL NOT MIX**.

**Break Time**: Children should bring in their own healthy break or toast will still be an option (made in their own classrooms). There will be no milk available.

**Dinner Time**: Lunch will be eaten in class bubbles. Hot dinners will be brought to the classroom. Dinner ladies will wear PPE.

The children will play in their own bubbles at break and lunch time. They will rotate around designated zones on a weekly basis and so will be able to see other children during play time. However, playing with children from another bubble will not happen.

**Home Time**: Finishing times are as usual:

2pm: Mon & Tues P1, P2 and P3

 Wed & Thurs P1 and P2

 Fri P1 to P7

3pm: Mon & Tues P4 – P7

 Wed & Thurs P3 – P7

Children will be guided out of school in their bubbles/classrooms one class at a time. Parents are not to congregate at school gates.

Children from different households are not allowed to travel in another household’s car (no car sharing)

Buses/Taxis as normal.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Will there be clubs?**

We are hoping to offer some level of clubs towards the end of September. Further details will follow.

Breakfast club will run from 8am in the Drumrane school hall. Mrs Steen on asteen478@c2kni.net to register your child before this Friday (21st August).

Separate details will be sent out about the Out-of-School club in the Burnfoot Community Centre. The community association run this.

1. **Do I wear uniform?**

The guidance advises that pupils wear uniform. However, to enable midweek washing of uniforms we are having a ‘Wash Day Wednesday’. Children wear school uniform Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. We hope to do outdoor PE on Wednesdays therefore we would ask children to wear clothing suitable for this, including trainers. Do not bring PE slippers to school. This could be tracksuit bottoms, t-shirts, sweatshirts etc.

A weather appropriate coat (i.e. warm with hood) is essential. **This year, more than ever, it is essential that all items of clothing must be clearly labelled. These can be ironed on or sewn on. These type of labels are easy to find online.**

1. **What do I need to bring?**
* No school bag (as per DE guidance). A zipped plastic folder will be provided by school for all pupils later in September.
* A pencil case should be brought on the first day, which will remain in school for remainder of term. This should include 1 writing pencil, a sharpener, a rubber, coloured pencils and a glue stick.
* Wipeable packed lunch box, including break (if not having toast) and water.
1. **What about Homework?**

A selection of reading books will be sent home for the P1/2/3 from 1st September and more accurate starting bands will be determined as the month goes on.

P4-P6 teachers will determine in class the starting point for reading and spellings/tables/reading homework will be sent from 7th September.

Please bear with us in determining an accurate baseline for all the children’s homework/reading given that there will be such a range.

P7 have been in school since 24th August. Reading, spellings and tables will be sent home from the 1st September. Written homework will be sent home from the week beginning 7th September.

Written homework for the week will be given out on a Monday and should be returned on a Friday. As the virus can live on paper/plastic/cardboard etc. it won’t be marked until the following week.

1. **How will school communicate with parents?**

The staff will begin to use See-Saw to send out notes, information etc. More details about this will be given out on the 1st September.

1. **What safety measures will be in place?**
* Frequent time-tabled handwashing
* Playground zones for class bubbles
* Assigned toilets per bubble
* Non-staff members will not be able to come into class bubbles/school. Miriam and Dawn will attend to any visitors through the office hatch.
* All adults will maintain a 2 metre distance.
* Pupil desks all facing same direction. (P3 – P7)
* No whole school assembling for any purpose.

School ended so suddenly for us all in March. More than ever, we are really looking forward to welcoming your children back to school. We hope you find this information useful and if you have any further queries please don’t hesitate to contact Mrs Steen on asteen478@c2kni.net