



Friday 26th June, 2020

Dear parents/guardians,

We are at the end of what has been a school year like no other and we continue to put in place preparations for the new school term.

As you will appreciate, this is a very fluid situation, with advice changing regularly from the NI Executive and Department of Education. The current advice that has been provided to schools is that we should work to ensure 1 metre social distancing between children and 2 metres between children and adults in a classroom setting and when moving throughout the school.

In the event of this advice remaining in place for the beginning of the new school year, now scheduled to begin on Monday 24th August following the Minister of Education's instruction, then children throughout each Primary 1- Primary 4 class will be divided into two groups (Blue and Green). All of the Primary 5- Primary 7 children will be able to return to school each day from the 24th August under the 1 metre social distancing guidelines.

The P1-P4 children in one group will attend school for one week whilst the other group children are engaged in home learning, alternating between attending class in school and home learning on a weekly basis.

The composition of each group will be provided to parents later in the summer when the Department of Education provide a final position with regard to social distancing guidelines. We will be ensuring that siblings are kept in the same groups throughout the school. We will use the school text service and social media to inform parents of these announcements.

In the event of the NI Executive altering their advice and moving towards a protective bubble strategy no longer specifying social distancing measures, then all children will be able to return to school on a full-time basis from Monday 24th August.

In both scenarios, however, there will be significant changes in order to minimise risk and danger to children, parents and staff. These changes will include staggered start/end times, specified entrance and exit points for children and restrictions on access to the school grounds for parents. More information will be provided to parents on all of these matters when we are in a position to provide certainty with regard to the arrangements for the start of term.

Parents will be notified by text of the revised Holiday List for the forthcoming school year which was been drawn up in response to the Education Minister's instruction for schools to open to pupils from Monday 24th August.

Once again, I would like to thank all of you for the continued support and wish you a safe and relaxing summer break.

Kind regards,

C Donnelly
Principal

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