



Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022

Dear parents/guardians,

*I hope that you and your family were able to enjoy a relaxing summer break.*

*Ahead of next week's return to school, I wanted to reach out to all parents/guardians to provide you with an update as to what this will mean for all of us in the St John the Baptist school community.*

*As you will see from the details that follow, we are able to press the reset button and begin this school year with almost all of the pandemic related mitigations and restrictions being relaxed, and this has an impact upon school start and finish times, which are shared below.*

*Naturally, it will remain our priority to protect the health and well-being of our children, staff and parents/ guardians whilst also endeavouring to provide the educational experiences in school that our children need and deserve, so any required changes to our arrangements necessitated by unforeseen developments will be shared with parents as and when required.*

*We are very much looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August and to enjoying the school year ahead.*

*Yours sincerely,*

Chris Donnelly  
Principal

### **Return to School**

All children (P2-P7) will return to school on **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August and Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August, finishing at 12pm on both days.** The pre-existing arrangements for the phasing in of Primary 1 pupils will remain in place (parents/ guardians were provided with the relevant details for their respective children during the June induction meetings in school.) Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September will be the first full day of school for P2-P7 children. Parents of children enrolled in the Social Communication Units will also be provided with alternative arrangements for the phasing in of children for the new term in the days to come.

- All classes will start at **8.55am** every morning, with pupils able to enter school grounds from 8.45am before proceeding directly to their classrooms. The entrance and exit points for children of all classes have been outlined in the table, in addition to the end of day times for all classes during the week.
- Parents should note the end of day times, which differ from arrangements in place during the pandemic period. All pupils will also end class at 1.30pm on Fridays. We will, however, continue with the hand sanitizing operation at the start of the day, subject to a review as the year progresses.
- At the end of the school day, the P5, P6 and P7 children will be walked by their teachers to the Finaghy Road North exit points so parents are asked to remain in the car park or on the road until the children arrive.



## St John the Baptist PS

### Access Arrangements & Start/Finish Times 2022/23



Year Group	Gates open	Start	School Entrance	End (Monday-Thursday)	End (Friday)	School Exit Points
Primary 1	8.45am	8.55am	Classrooms	2pm	1.30pm	Classrooms
Primary 2	8.45am	8.55am	Classrooms	2pm	1.30pm	Classrooms
Primary 3	8.45am	8.55am	Parish Entrance	2.30pm	1.30pm	Parish Entrance
Primary 4	8.45am	8.55am	Parish Entrance	3pm	1.30pm	Parish Entrance
Primary 5	8.45am	8.55am	Main Foyer	3pm	1.30pm	Main Gate
Primary 6	8.45am	8.55am	Main Gate then Canteen Entrance	3pm	1.30pm	Main Gate
Primary 7	8.45am	8.55am	Main Gate then Canteen Entrance	3pm	1.30pm	Side Entrance Gate (Finaghy Rd Nth)

#### Morning Access Arrangements

We are fortunate to have large school grounds with multiple entry points, and these will continue to be utilised fully in the morning and afternoon to minimise congestion when children are arriving and exiting school. We will be reinforcing with children the expectation that these arrangements are adhered to at all times and would appreciate your support in this regard. **Punctuality continues to be of paramount importance**, and issues in this regard will be addressed quickly and directly with parents to ensure they are decisively resolved.

**Breakfast Club** and **After School Club** provision will be shared with parents in the near future and will require pre-booking once again this year. The clubs will open from Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September.

#### School Dinners

Dinners will be available for all pupils from Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September, and the dinner menu for the first term has already been shared with parents via text and on the school's website. Dinner money must be paid on the Monday (or first day) of each week in a clearly labelled envelope outlining which days your child will be going to dinners.

#### School Uniform

Pupils will continue to wear their school uniform as usual **every day**. The designated PE Day for each class will be shared with parents early in the term. When that happens, all parents will be informed of the one day each week in which the children are asked to come to school in their appropriate PE uniform.

### **Hand Sanitisation Arrangements & Hygiene**

There will continue to be designated hand sanitisation stations at all entrance points to the school and children and staff will be required to sanitise their hands upon entering the school each morning. This will be subject to review throughout the school year. Parents are asked to ensure that, as a matter of daily routine, children are instructed to wash their hands each morning immediately prior to leaving for the journey to school. Parents are also asked to provide their children with a packet of tissues for their exclusive use in school.

### **Covid Symptoms**

It remains the case that children exhibiting Covid symptoms must not come to school and parents/ guardians are asked to remain vigilance with regard to this throughout the school year.

### **Seesaw**

Class Seesaw accounts will be set up during the first week of term and parents/ guardians are asked to ensure that they have set these up appropriately at the earliest opportunity. These provide an effective and direct means of communication which is important in the event of a recurrence of the pandemic-related school closures that have been experienced throughout the preceding three school years. Children will continue to be assigned homework to be completed via Seesaw every Thursday in order to ensure all remain familiar with the method of communication. Please note: Parents wishing to arrange a meeting with teachers should do so via the school office (Tel 90-614546).