Education Authority - Southern Region

**St. Brigid’s Primary School**

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5th March 2021

Good morning parents/guardian

**Newsletter - March 2021**

We are delighted that P1, P2 and P3 children will return to full time face to face teaching from Monday 8th March until Friday 19th March 2021.

School will be closed for all pupils on Wednesday 17th March 2021 for St. Patricks Day.

Remote learning will resume for P1, P2 and P3 children from Monday 22nd March until Wednesday 31st March.

We will continue to support remote learning for pupils in P4, P5, P6 and P7 until Wednesday 31st March.

Key worker children and /or vulnerable children will continue to be supervised in engaging with the remote learning tasks and activities provided by their teacher until Wednesday 31st March.

Easter holidays for all pupils will commence from Thursday 1st April.

Pupils in P1, P2 and P3 will return to full time face to face teaching after the Easter holidays.

We have included key information about our return to school arrangements for P1, P2 and P3 pupils along with some general information in the remainder of this newsletter.

**Covid-19 practical arrangements**

To reduce the transmission of the virus in school, it is essential that we all take responsibility to adhere to the guidelines issued to schools through Public Health and the Department of Education. We will reinforce our Staying Safe messages to educate children to complete good hygiene measures (hand sanitising and handwashing for 20 seconds), observe social distancing in the classroom, dining hall and in the playground and develop a good routine for learning in the current environment.

All pupils attending school from Monday 8th March should wear their school uniform. Your child may wear their PE kit on days that they had PE in term 1. We will have the windows open to improve ventilation in each classroom, so please ensure that your child wears an additional layer of clothing to keep them warm.

Pupils that bring a water bottle into school and do not finish it may leave the water bottle in school to use on the following day. A label will be put on each water bottle that is kept in the school building overnight. We will provide cups of water for children to have with their lunch when they move into the dining room.

Please continue to use paper bags or lunch bags as we are restricting items that can be taken in and out of school on a daily basis. We appreciate all your efforts on this to date.

We have increased the number of break times in school. This ensures that children stay in their “bubble” and that there is one supervisor serving dinner to them.

We plan to use the outdoor space around the school (playground, grass areas and Glassdrummond Woods) weather permitting, as much as possible.

**Teaching and Learning**

Please return all reading material / resources that have been provided by school on Monday (8th March) morning when your child comes into school. We would appreciate if you could ensure that all resources are in your child’s folder with their name and class clearly marked, as we will quarantine all returned material before giving them to other pupils.

**School transport**

School transport will operate as normal from Monday 8th March to Friday 19th March (with the exception of 17th March) for P1 - P3 pupils.

Transport for children of key workers or vulnerable children, who are entitled to transport assistance, will continue to operate from Monday 8th march to Wednesday 31st March (with the exception of 17th March).

**Department of Education advice regarding school meal provision**

Direct payments in lieu of free school meals will be made in respect of pupils in year groups that are not required to attend school and continue to learn remotely from home. Where pupils are required to attend school, school meals services will operate as normal.

Direct payments in lieu of free school meals will not be made in respect of pupils in year groups that are required to attend school as these pupils will receive free school meals at school for the period they are required to attend.

Free school meals should not be provided to key workers’ children and vulnerable children (P4-P7 pupils) entitled to free school meals when at school for supervised learning as their parents will receive a direct payment.

Any pupil at school who wishes, including vulnerable children and children of key workers, may purchase a meal where school meals services are operating as normal for the period pupils are required to attend, otherwise they should bring a packed lunch.

From Monday 22nd March all key worker and vulnerable children mustbring a packed lunch each day they are attending school.

The cost of a school meal is £2.60 per day. Your child’s dinner money must be put in an envelope marked with your child’s name, the number of dinners they are taking and the total money enclosed. Please make all cheques payable to EA (Education Authority) Southern Region, if relevant.

**Attendance at school / engagement with remote learning tasks**

We continue to use attendance codes to monitor attendance at school and also when pupils are engaging with remote learning tasks at home.

If your child is not completing curriculum tasks set by their teacher, we record it a**s** no evidence of learning at home and your child is marked using an absent code**.**

We are really looking forward to having our P1, P2 and P3 children back in school on Monday.

Best wishes

Mrs M Keating