Education Authority - Southern Region

**St. Brigid’s Primary School**

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19th March 2021

Dear parents/guardian

**Newsletter (2) - March 2021**

We hope you are all keeping safe and well.

This is the second newsletter we have issued in March 2021. They key purpose of this second newsletter is to provide you with a further update on the return to school instructions we have recently received from the Department of Education.

We are delighted to announce that P4-P7 children will return to full time face to face teaching from Monday 22nd March until Wednesday 31st March 2021

Pupils in P1-P3 will continue to have full-time face to face teaching until Wednesday 31st March 2021.

Easter holidays for all pupils will commence from Thursday 1st April to Friday 9th April (inclusive)

We have included key information about our return to school arrangements for P4-P7 pupils along with general information for all pupils in the remainder of this newsletter.

**Return to school arrangements**

**Teaching and Learning**

As part of our Return to School programme, we will complete activities in class to ascertain children’s learning since December 2020.

We will complete some form of assessment (including teacher judgement and running records) and communicate with the children to gauge a base line for learning in both literacy and numeracy. Most importantly, we will support the children on a pastoral level on their return to school.

School staff are collecting all school reading books, library books, accelerated reading material, numeracy text books.

We request that all school material to be returned before the children return to school and by Monday 22nd March at the latest as we will quarantine all returned material before giving them to other children.

**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 sanitisation and handwashing for 20 seconds), observe social distancing in the classroom, dining hall and in the playground and develop a good routine for learning.

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. We hope this will help your child to settle in to school life and enjoy the company of their school friends.

School staff will not give written homework to your children until after the Easter holidays. We will use the next two weeks to allow children to settle back into our school routine and enjoy being with their friends and teachers again.

**Reminder**

We would like to remind everyone of the arrangements we have in place for pupils arriving at school.

These arrangements are in place to ensure everyone’s safety by avoiding congestion and large gatherings of both children and parents near the school gates and entrance areas to the building.

· **Primary one and two pupils will enter and leave school through the main entrance.**

**· Primary three and four pupils will enter and leave school through the emergency exit (assembly hall).**

**· Primary five, six and seven pupils will enter and leave school using the double gates at the front of the school (and access their classrooms by walking down the outside of the school building).**

At both arrival and collection times, we again request that parents and guardians do not enter the school buildings, to prevent the spread of the virus. This is in the interests of children, parents and all staff.

Where parents must enter school buildings, appropriate hygiene measures will be in place at the doors and it is essential that you follow our hygiene precautions.

Please do not congregate at the school gates before or after you drop off or collect your child.

We request that you adhere to all school guidelines and encourage others to do the same, to ensure that our school community is safe for all. We are doing everything we can to ensure that all pupils can return to their normal education, as far as possible, in a safe environment.

**School Meals**

The cost of a school meal is **£2.60 per day**. Your child’s dinner money must be put in an envelope marked with their 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.

Please check packaging of all items when making your child’s lunch as there are pupils who have a serious allergic reaction to nuts any nut products. This may result in a serious anaphylactic reaction. There are also children in school with an allergic reaction to eggs and egg products. These pupils will have a serious reaction with any contact with eggs and egg products.

**School transport**

School transport will operate as normal for both morning and afternoon collection.

**Communication**

We will continue to make updates available via newsletters, our website, twitter and our School app.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support during the school year to date. We are really looking forward to having all children back in school on Monday. There was huge excitement in school on Tuesday after hearing that the P4-P7 classes would be joining us on Monday 22nd March.

Kind regards,

Mary Keating