



Principal: Miss Orla O'Dowd

Email: oodowd352@c2kni.net

1st September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It was great to see all our boys and girls from P/R2 – P/R7 all returning to school today. The road and pathways were buzzing from families meeting and greeting each other after the summer break. Hopefully the boys and girls that were nervous this morning skipped out at the end of the day with all fears subsided.

We have been welcoming the boys and girls into nursery and P/R1 across the whole week and these classes will continue their transition over the next number of days and weeks.

Covid Mitigations

We are keeping many of implemented Covid routines and mitigations in place this year in order to keep our school family safe. However there will be times where contact tracing will be initiated when we have a case of Covid in the school and all identified close contacts will be asked to cooperate in reducing the spread and risk of Covid.

Close contacts who are pupils

- Parents of all those on the contact list will be informed by the school that their child is a close contact of a confirmed case. They will be advised to self-isolate until they have taken a PCR test.
 - If the PCR test is positive they should self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms or, if they have no symptoms, for 10 days from the test result
 - If the test is negative they can return to school, however, if they do go on to develop new symptoms, they should stay at home, self-isolate with their household and book another PCR test

Uniform

We return to “nearly normal” with regards to school uniform. Unless your child is participating in PE or an afterschool sporting activity, full uniform should be worn. These PE days will increase as we get into the swing of the new term. For those children that do not have the new PE kit, dark track bottoms with the previous yellow polo shirt should be worn. GAA tops and PE gear of choice will only be permitted on non-uniform days.

Entering the School Grounds

We advise that children in Primary 4/Rang 4 through to Primary 7/Rang 7 come onto the school site without an adult and proceed directly to their classroom. The school doors open at 8:50 am and classes start at 9am. While waiting for collection, social distancing should be observed by all adults on the school grounds. Please ring ahead for an appointment if you need to speak with us in the office area of the school, as we try to reduce the footfall within our school building. Parents/ carers should always adhere to 2 meter social distancing.



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We will continue to provide the Drop Off – Turning Circle for the morning run within the front playground but there will be strictly no parking in this area.

As per Department of Education (DE) advice, those arriving by car will be encouraged to park further away from the school and then walk with their children ('park and stride') to avoid congestion. (Fr Wright has kindly given parents' permission to park in St Paul's car park which is a 3-minute walk to the school gate). This is particularly relevant to all our Nursery parents as those children have to be "delivered and collected" by a trusted adult. Car sharing with children of other households should be avoided. Parents will NOT be able to park cars on the school grounds. (Exceptions made for children with disabilities and arrangements are made with the principal).

Lunch & Dinners

Those children bringing a lunch to school must bring it in a lunch box (which can be wiped) and a water bottle. Please ensure that everything in the lunch box is accessible to your child without assistance. As previously stated, **school dinners will be available from 1st September and will be provided in the canteen.** Dinners should be ordered, as usual, on the school money app. Break and lunch times will be staggered to ensure minimal interactions outside of class and year group bubbles. **If your free school meal allocation has not been ratified by the Education Authority, you will need to provide a lunch or pay for school meals until it is cleared by EA.**

Medications and Epi-Pens

Please return epi-pens and inhalers and agreed Medicine/Management plans.
We will need all medications in as soon as possible.

I want to thank you for working brilliantly with us in the last academic year and look forward to another year of fun and learning together. We are committed to ensuring that the school return for all children is a safe and positive experience and we will do everything possible in these continuing challenging circumstances.

Yours sincerely
Orla O'Dowd
Principal