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August 14, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

SCHOOL RE-OPENING PLAN AUGUST 2020

Following the latest guidance from the Department of Education, we would like to share with you our current plans for re-opening in August 2020 for the new academic year.

We will start bringing pupils back during the week of Aug 24 in two Groups which will allow us to test our procedures and make any adjustments before pupils return full-time:

- Group A will be in school on Monday (24th) and Tuesday (25th).
- Group B will be in school on Thursday (27th) and Friday (28th)

All new Reception and P1 children will be in Group B.

The school will eventually re-open fully for all children on Tuesday September 1 (August 31 is a Bank Holiday).

To facilitate the return of all children and to reduce the risk of transmission, we will:

- stagger the start & finish times for each bubble as follows:

	Arrive/Start	15-min Break	30-min Lunch	Finish Week 1	Finish Sept 1 onwards
R/P1/P2 : Bubble 1	8.45/8.50am (via rear door)	10.15 -10.30	12noon-12.30	Group A: 1.30pm Group B: 12noon	1.30pm
P3/4 : Bubble 2	9am/9.05am (main front door)	10.30 -10.45	12.15pm- 12.45	1.45pm	P3: 1.45pm P4: 3pm (Mon- Thurs) 1.45pm (Fri)
P5/6/7: Bubble 3	9.15/9.20am (mobile)	10.45 -11am	12.30 -1pm	2pm	3pm

Pupils should use the "waiting area" marquee in the playground to wait for their teacher to bring them into class each morning.

We will also:

- maintain a 2m physical distance between adults and other adults (inc. parents & visitors);
- maintain a 2m physical distance, where possible, between all adults and pupils ;
- use “sneeze screens” on teachers’ desks to allow for closer teacher-pupil interaction;
- maintain as much distance between pupils as is possible and practicable
- implement a “protective bubble” approach. Children’s protective bubbles will be their class on the days they are in school (e.g. Rec/P1/P2 will be “Bubble 1”, P3/4 will be “Bubble 2” and then P5/6/7 will be “Bubble 3”). They will stay in these “bubbles” throughout the day, including break and lunchtimes.
- use floor markings to ensure all pupils, staff and visitors keep to the left side of the corridor ;
- use hand sanitising spray for all pupils before entering school, and oversee regular hand-washing and sanitising throughout the day;
- provide hand-sanitising spray/gel and tissues in every room ;
- clean all “touch points” regularly throughout the day with anti-bacterial spray ;
- promote the “Catch it, Bin it, kill it” message, and promote sneezing/coughing into elbow;
- keep as many windows open in each room as is practicable (min. one open window);
- have disposable masks, gloves and aprons, as well as visors, for staff use if needed (eg. first aid);
- use an infra-red thermometer to take temperatures, if needed.
- increase the amount of outdoor class-time, using our current gazebos, if needed, and those on loan from Donaghadee Community Development Group.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN RETURNING TO SCHOOL

We are very aware of the impact of this pandemic on children’s emotional well-being and that there may be some anxiety about returning to school, starting school in Primary One or moving into a new class. We will ensure that school is fun and supportive, by including a programme of PDMU activities. If your child has been particularly affected during the outbreak (eg loss of relative or pet), or if there are any medical or family changes since March, please contact your child’s teacher before August 21 to let them know (use info@stannesps.donaghadee.ni.sch.uk and the message will be forwarded to the correct teacher).

SOCIAL DISTANCING FOR PARENTS

It is extremely important that parents adhere to social distancing guidelines for the safety of all members of the school community. This will of course apply when children are entering, exiting the school grounds. We will be use staggered start and finish times to limit numbers but would ask you to please respect other adults’ space at these times.

We must accept our collective responsibility to prevent the virus spread. Whilst we understand the importance of connecting socially with other members of the school community, we strongly advise parents/guardians not to congregate around the school gates.

It is important to be aware that should there be a cluster of cases identified with St Anne's PS, then we could be instructed to close for a period of time in accordance with Public Health requirements.

Parents will not be allowed to enter the school building. Please contact the school by telephone should you need to pass on a message or contact the class teacher.

We would also ask the number of adults coming to the school be kept to a minimum. It is recommended that only one parent/guardian should escort the child/ren to and from school. We appreciate that, on the first day of school for Primary One and Two, that there may be a little anxiety but Miss McNamee will be on hand to bring the children into class.

CHILDREN SHOWING SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

If your child shows symptoms of the COVID-19 virus –

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature), or;
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough it may be worse than usual);
- Anosmia – the loss or change in your normal sense of smell (it can also affect your taste)

You must keep your child at home following the PHA guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection.

If a child develops symptoms at school, they will be isolated in the dinner hall, or other appropriate space, until they are collected.

WHAT TO WEAR AND WHAT TO BRING TO SCHOOL

Children will be wearing a school uniform as normal. If your current uniform still fits, or if you have been able to buy new uniform, then continue to wear it.

If feet have grown and you have been unable to replace school shoes yet, then other suitable footwear will be allowed initially. The same flexible arrangement will apply for shirts, jumpers etc. – P.E. uniforms can be alternated daily with regular uniforms to allow for daily washing and drying.

Children **do not** need:

- to wear masks or face-coverings;
- to bring school bags
- to bring pencil cases (we will provide a stationery pack that will stay at school)

Children should:

- bring a healthy snack & lunch (P2-P7) and water bottle in a labelled in a plastic bag;
- have a smile on their face and be ready to get back to some fun learning!

School meals should start again in September, and there will be no school milk initially - we will keep you notified if/when this begins again.

There will be no Breakfast Club nor After-school clubs initially.

CASHLESS PAYMENTS

We will no longer accept cash or cheques at school. We have set up a cashless system with ParentPay which will enable parents to pay using their bank or card details (for those with no method to pay by card, we will issue a PayPoint card to enable you to pay at PayPoint shops around town).

You will need to register with ParentPay using the unique code that we will issue by text next week.

Thank you for your patience and support throughout the past 6 months. If you have any questions in relation to this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

We are so excited to be getting the school open again for our pupils, and we promise to do everything possible to ensure your child will get back into a safe and caring school routine.

Yours sincerely
Mr J. Hennessy
Principal

EDUCATION RESTART

WE ALL MUST DO IT TO GET THROUGH IT

STAY SAFE SAVE LIVES

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our schools safe and helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Everyone should continue to:

- wash hands regularly
- cover coughs and sneezes
- practice social distancing
- follow the latest public health advice

What should I not do?

- Don't** send your child to school if they have COVID-19 symptoms
- Don't** allow your child to use public transport unless you have no alternative
- Don't** gather at the school entrance/gate
- Don't** allow your child to share food/drinks with friends

What should I do?

- Do** let the school know if your child will be absent due to COVID-19 symptoms
- Do** encourage your child to socially distance, if it is possible
- Do** encourage good hand hygiene
- Do** use alternative transport if you can
- Do** walk or cycle if it's safe and appropriate to do so
- Do** use park and ride or other car-parking facilities (if available) and walk the remainder of the journey to school
- Do** avoid parking close to or at the school gates
- Do** encourage the use of face coverings on school transport

Further information, including Frequently Asked Questions for parents and carers, can be found on the Department of Education's website at www.education-ni.gov.uk.

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