



St. Anne's Primary School

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Corkey

Ballymena

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Principal: Mr. H. Duffin B.Ed. (Hons), PQH

16th August 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I trust this letter finds you and your family well and that you all had a restful and refreshing summer.

Return to school arrangements

- ALL pupils will return to school on Thursday 1st September.
- The school day for P1 pupils will begin at 9.00am and end at 12.00pm for the first two weeks of term
- The school day for P2-P7 pupils will begin at 9.00am and end at 2.00/ 2.50pm as usual.
- Gates will open at 8.50am. Pupils must move directly to their classrooms from the school gate between 8.50 and 9.00am.

Class Bubbles

We will maintain some aspects of our class bubbles whilst your children are on St Anne's school grounds. To facilitate our class bubbles, our entry and exit arrangements are as last year:

- P1 and P2 leave school grounds at 2.00pm (time varies for P1s through September), entry and exit through the main pedestrian gate
- P3 and P4 leave school grounds at 2.50pm, entry and exit through the lower pedestrian gate (P1-2 playground)
- P5 and P6 leave school grounds at 2.50 pm, entry and exit through the lower pedestrian gate (P1-2 playground)
- P7 leave school grounds at 2.50 pm, entry and exit through main pedestrian gate

No parents will be permitted on school grounds unless in exceptional circumstances. The preferred method of communication is by phone or by arranged appointment. Please maintain two metre social distance when waiting for your child to gain entry to the school grounds. Parents/Guardians

are responsible for supervision of their children before they enter and once they leave school grounds.

Breakfast/After Schools clubs

There will be **NO** Breakfast Club or After Schools Clubs during the first few weeks of term.

A survey to gauge interest in Breakfast Club and After Schools Clubs is now live on our school website. A password will be sent by SMS to the main school contact for each family. I will update you on the outcome of this survey and any changes to our before/after school provision as soon as possible.

Breaktimes and Lunchtimes

Breaktimes and lunchtimes will be staggered to facilitate our 'bubble' strategy. School Meals will be provided at no cost to those entitled to a free school meal. Meals are priced at £2.60 for all other pupils. Parents must complete the online school meal order form, found on our school website <https://www.stannescorkey.com/parents/dinner-menu/> by 9am on a Monday morning if they wish their child to receive a school meal any day of that week.

I encourage anyone who believes they have entitlement to apply for **Free School Meals** on the EA website: <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals> even if you do not intend to take a free meal every day.

Anyone paying for a school meal must send their money in on the first day of the school week. Dinner money will not be accepted at any other time.

The Free Schools Meals and Uniform Allowance Helpdesk is operated by staff across the EA Free School Meals/Uniform Allowance service. It is available to assist parents and guardians who may have any queries. The Helpdesk operates Monday – Friday from 9am to 4.30pm and can be contacted via email: mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk The telephone number which should be used for all enquiries is 028 9041 8044.

As staff cannot handle children's food, please ensure all food sent to school is prepared, ready to eat, i.e. oranges peeled and segmented, apples sliced, grapes cut lengthways etc.

School milk will be made available this year. Online order forms will be posted to our school website at the beginning of term.

Transport

School bus transport will be provided by the EA. This must be arranged directly with the EA via an online application found on their website:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/help-available/home-to-school-transport>

Face masks must be worn on school transport. Transport will commence on 1st September on the usual route.

It is advised that, in the interests of reducing the spread of Covid 19, any parents who can make alternative arrangements for their children's transport to and from school should do so.

Hygiene

Please reinforce good handwashing techniques with your children as handwashing in school must be done independently.

Staff will apply hand sanitiser to all pupils' hands on entry to the school. A number of opportunities will be provided for handwashing with soap throughout the day. Children will again have hand sanitiser applied as they leave the school grounds. Any children with sensitive skin who require a specific sanitiser may bring it to school and apply it, supervised by school staff, at the gate as they enter the school grounds.

Please ensure your child brings a full packet of tissues to school each day. Pupils may also wish to bring a small hand sanitiser for their desk. Reinforce good coughing and sneezing etiquette: i.e. sneezing and coughing into a tissue and putting it into a bin immediately. Cough or sneeze into an elbow if no tissue is available, then wash hands immediately.

Pupils must bring their own pencil case to school, containing **2 pencils, rubber, sharpener, Pritt Stick, child friendly scissors, ruler, coloured pencils/crayons and whiteboard marker**. Children will not be permitted to share personal items with their peers. Any pencil cases brought into school should be brought home each evening.

Pupils should not wear PPE in class, however, face masks must be worn if travelling on school transport. Fresh school uniform each day is recommended but not essential.

The school will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each school day with a product recommended by DE in line with PHA guidance. Ongoing, regular cleaning of 'high touch incidence' areas such as door handles and desks will happen throughout the school day. Efforts will be made to reduce need to touch any surfaces unnecessarily.

School Uniform

Our school uniform can be purchased from Select Kids or Teamkit in Ballymena. Our uniform is:

- Red jumper with St Anne's shamrock logo
- White polo shirt
- Black trousers or skirt
- Black shoes/plain black trainers

PE Uniform:

- Pupils will not change for PE at this time.

We strongly encourage all pupils to wear correct uniform, as detailed above, every day.

Children should bring a schoolbag to school, ensuring they have a self-contained space to keep their lunch, water bottle and books in.

Homework

We intend to share details of homework on our school 'Home Learning' webpage daily. The website address is: <https://www.stannespscorkey.com/parents/home-learning/>. The password will be shared by text message. Homework will be completed on sheets/books sent home with your child, and returned daily. We will continue to use electronic media for the return of some homework.

Book return

Please return any outstanding books as soon as possible

Communication

We aim to minimise the amount of material moving between school and home. Considering this, we will, as far as possible, publish all information, notes etc. on our school website, school text message service or Teams instead of sharing paper copies.

We look forward to welcoming all our pupils back on the 1st September. Please call 02827641429 or contact me on hduffin422@c2kni.net if you have any questions or concerns relating to the new school year.

Kind regards,



Henry Duffin (Principal)