



## St. Anne's Primary School

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

18<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I trust this latest letter finds you and your families well. We are glad to hear that all Primary School children should return to school for face to face teaching from 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

Please see details of our return to school arrangements below which are very similar to what was in place before the Christmas break:

The Department of Education's 'New School Day' guidance document provides a framework we will follow to welcome St Anne's pupils back to school. This document outlines maintaining a social distance between pupils as much as possible, alongside maintaining a 'bubble' where children only interact with others from their own class group. EA guidance recommends pupils do not wear facecoverings in class. Staff will wear facecoverings where 2m social distancing cannot be maintained. Face coverings must be worn on school transport.

### **Return to school dates**

- All pupils from P1 to P7 should return to their class for face-to-face teaching from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

### **Social Distancing Bubbles**

**School gates will be open at 9.00am.** Supervision of children is the responsibility of parents/guardians until they are admitted to the school grounds. To minimise mixing of class bubbles, we ask that children remain socially distanced, with their parents/guardians, until the school gates are opened. Access arrangements are as below:

- P7 enter school grounds through main pedestrian gate
- P5 and P6 enter school grounds through the lower pedestrian gate (P1-2 playground)
- P1 and P2 enter school grounds through the main pedestrian gate
- P3 and P4 enter school grounds through the lower pedestrian gate (P1-2 playground)

To facilitate social distancing for class bubbles, our staggered finish times will be:

- P7 leave school grounds at 2.50 pm, exit through main pedestrian gate
- P5 and P6 leave school grounds at 2.50 pm, exit through the lower pedestrian gate (P1-2 playground)
- P3 and P4 leave school grounds at 2.40pm, exit through the lower pedestrian gate (P1-2 playground)
- P1 and P2 leave school grounds at 2.00pm, exit through the main pedestrian gate

**These times may vary for children using EA School Bus.**

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.

### **Breakfast/After Schools clubs**

To maintain the class 'bubbles', there will be no Breakfast Club or After Schools Clubs at the beginning of the school year. We will keep this position under review.

### **Breaktimes and Lunchtimes**

Breaktimes and lunchtimes will be continue to be staggered to facilitate the 'bubble' strategy. Hot School Meals will be provided at no cost to those entitled to a free school meal or priced at £2.60 for all other pupils. I would encourage anyone who believes they may have entitlement to apply for Free School Meals on the EA website. <https://www.eani.org.uk/node/1075> even if you do not intend to take a free meal. Please see the dinner menu and request form, published on our school website every Thursday, for more details.

Anyone paying for a school meal must send their money in on a Monday so it can be left for 3 days until it is handled by school staff. Dinner money will not be accepted at any other time.

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.

### **Transport**

School bus transport will be provided by the EA as usual. Face masks must be worn by all on EA transport.

It continues to be 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.

Teachers will apply hand sanitiser to all pupils' hands on entry to the school grounds. 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 their teacher, 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 be left in school, containing 2 pencils, rubber, sharpener, Pritt Stick, child friendly scissors, ruler, coloured pencils/crayons and whiteboard marker.

We wish to reduce the potential for spread of the virus as far as is possible and practical, so intend to use online methods for sharing of homework. This is not practical for reading books so we will send a reading book home as before, to be brought to school daily. It will remain solely with the receiving pupil for the time they require it until being returned on a Friday. This will allow the book to be 'quarantined' and made safe for the next user. More detail on the practical arrangements for this will follow.

Pupils should not wear PPE in class per statement in the DE New School Day guidance, however, face masks should 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

- Red jumper with St Anne's shamrock logo
- White polo shirt
- Black trousers or skirt
- Black shoes/plain black trainers
- **Pupils will not change for PE at this time** to minimise the number of items being brought to and from school.

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

No indoor shoes are required. Old shoes may be brought to change into before using the outdoor play equipment or before play on the grass.

Children may bring a schoolbag to school, ensuring they have a self-contained space to keep their lunch, water bottle and reading book in. Parents may send disposable bags daily if they would prefer.

### **iPad/Book return**

Some children and classes were given iPads and school reading books or text books to work from during the lockdown. Please return any iPads and books as soon as possible so they can be prepared for re-use prior to the children returning to school.

### **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 will continue to use electronic media for the return of homework for all classes.

We look forward to welcoming all our pupils back on Monday. Please contact me on [hduffin422@c2kni.net](mailto:hduffin422@c2kni.net) if you have any questions or concerns relating to the new school year.

School will close for Easter with a half day on 31<sup>st</sup> March, resuming on 12<sup>th</sup> April. Please contact me on [hduffin422@c2kni.net](mailto:hduffin422@c2kni.net) if you have any further questions or concerns.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henry Duffin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Henry Duffin (Principal)