



OMAGH COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

18th August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I trust that you and your family are well and have enjoyed a restful break. We were overwhelmed by the positive engagement of the majority of our pupils with regard to online learning last term but we look forward to returning to full time Face to Face teaching and learning.

Return to School:

We received reopening guidance from the Education Authority on 13th August and we have been working tirelessly to get our school ready for pupils to return safely.

The **week beginning 24th August**, will run as previously planned in June with all children returning for two mornings, one morning with their previous teacher (19/20), and one morning with their new teacher, (20/21).

This has been planned in half classes, so **please check the letter accompanying your child's school report in June for exact dates and times** for your child.

Primary Seven pupils please check your letter as your arrangements are different.

Please help to prepare your child by explaining that in August they will only see half of their class and in September they will see all of their class! Half classes should make it easier for everyone to settle back in. Please also prepare them to come into school independently and remind them how important it is to wash their hands properly!

If you have any concerns relating to your child returning to school please contact the school via phone or email. Staff will be in school all week, so please leave a message if you can and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. Please be patient as it is a very busy time.

School will be closed on Monday 31st August for the Bank Holiday, and all pupils will return to school full time on Tuesday 1st September.

School dinners will be available from Tuesday 1st September.

Organisation of School:

- Classrooms have been organised with all children facing the same direction.
- Children will be organised into class bubbles with minimal contact with other classes.
- The school and the playground have been organised into four zones, with each zone allocated their own entry and exit points, staff will be on hand to guide children in the early days!

- Staff and pupils do not have to wear masks, though there may be circumstances where this is necessary.

School Arrival and Departure:

- **Access to the front carpark will be closed at 8.45am** and is for staff parking only. Taxis should use the bus bay. There are an additional thirty parking spaces for parents at the back entrance, including disabled parking.
- Pupils should wash their hands before leaving home.
- Pupils will arrive at staggered times to avoid congestion.
- Staff will instruct pupils where to line up in the playground, if it is very wet pupils will be instructed to go straight to their classrooms.
- Pupils should, as much as possible, line up independently. **Children from Year 4 upwards should be encouraged to come in to school by themselves.**
- Younger children should be accompanied by just **one adult**.

The following times should be adhered to from Tuesday 1st September until further notice. No child should be on school grounds before 8.45am.

Please note, to reduce class sizes and increase social distancing we have created an additional class. **Therefore, there will be two Year 5, 6 and 7 classes.** As a result of this some class groupings will have changed. All pupils will be introduced to their new teacher next week. Miss Lockington and Miss Orr will be teaching Year 5, Mrs Stronge and Mr Crozier will be teaching P6, Mr Morgan and Mrs Burke will be teaching the P7 pupils, until Mrs Burke begins her maternity leave.

Staggered Arrival and Pick Up Times for Week Beginning 1st September until Further Notice			
Class	Arrival Time	Pick Up Time	Entry/Exit Door
Nursery	Will be notified separately.		Nursery
P1			P1 building
P1			P1 building
P2 Room 2 (Mrs McFarland)	8.45am	1.45pm	Junior Entrance
P2 Room 4 (Mrs Crosbie)	8.45am	1.45pm	Front Entrance
P3 Room 3 (Mrs Mathers/Mrs McMullan)	9.00am	2.00pm	Front Entrance
P4 Room 6 (Mrs Dempsey)	8.50am	2.50pm	Junior Entrance
P4 Room 7 (Mrs Alcorn)	8.50am	2.50pm	Front Entrance
P5 Room 8 (Miss Lockington)	8.55am	2.55pm	Front Entrance
P5 Room 11 (Miss Orr)	9.00am	3.00pm	Back Entrance
P6 Room 12 (Mr Crozier)	8.50am	2.50pm	Back Entrance
P6 Room 9 (Mrs Stronge)	8.45am	2.45pm	Back Entrance
P7 Room 10 (Mr Morgan)	8.45am	3.00pm	Back Entrance
P7 Room 14 (Mrs Burke)	8.50am	2.50pm	Back Entrance
LSC Room 5 (Miss Beattie)	9.00am	3.00pm	Junior Entrance
ASC Room 1 (Ms Feeney/Mrs Martin)	9.00am	2.00pm	Junior Entrance

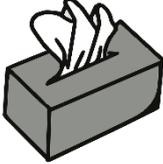
Visiting School for an Appointment?

- Parents should not enter the school building except when attending a pre-arranged meeting or if an emergency situation arises.
- Parents and visitors on entering the building will be expected to wear a mask. They must also use the hand sanitiser, sign in and wait for the school secretary to greet them.
- Parents are please asked to maintain social distancing in the playground when dropping off or picking up their children.

Uniform:

- Children will be expected to wear clean full school uniform including black school shoes. School polo shirts are permitted in the first term to facilitate regular cleaning and handwashing.
- When our PE timetable gets up and running children will be permitted to wear black/navy tracksuit bottoms (no stripes)/leggings and trainers with school polo shirt/PE top and school jumper to school on PE days, each teacher will inform your children when their class have PE. This will take place outside as much as possible.
Select Kids are currently selling woven tracksuit bottoms for £5.00!!
- Please do not send a PE kit to school at this stage.

WHAT TO BRING TO SCHOOL

1. Lunchbox 	2. Water bottle 	3. Medication (if needed) 	4. Box of tissues. 
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1. A **lunchbox** which is clearly named which can be cleaned every day, please also include something healthy to eat for break time, (NO NUTS OR KIWI FRUIT). Information on school meals will be issued as soon as this is available. Break will not be available to buy.
2. A **water bottle**, clearly named and which is wipeable. Water fountains will not be available. Only water should be in the water bottle. Other healthy drinks are permitted in lunchbox for lunch time when eating food. (Metal bottles are most durable, hard plastic bottles often break when they fall off the tables!)

3. **Medication** if needed, eg inhalers, epipens etc. These should be brought to school on the first day, clearly named with an administration of medicines form which is available on the school website.
4. **A box of tissues** to be kept in school.

Children will be given individual folders for school which will contain everything else that they need for school use. **Please do not send school bags or pencil cases to school.**

Money:

All money, especially dinner money, should be sent into school in a **sealed envelope with your child's name, class and amount clearly marked on the front and what the payment is for eg. dinner money, amenities fund.**

School hopes very shortly to have available a card reader so that parents can make contactless payments.

Health:

- Please inform the school office if you have recently, or intend to, travel abroad.
- Please download the NI Covid App to your phone, (Test, Trace and Protect)
- PLEASE do not send your child to school if your child or anyone in your household has any of the following symptoms.
 - A high temperature, (hot to touch)
 - A new, continuous cough,
 - A loss of, or change in sense of smell or taste.

If your child or anyone in your household has any of the symptoms above you should get a test for Covid-19 and follow the Public Health Agency advice.

Children will engage in regular handwashing during the school day.

Children will be reminded of good handwashing techniques and we would ask that parents reinforce this at home. Handwashing is extremely beneficial in reducing the spread of the coronavirus so it is vital that children engage regularly in this simple act.

Following current DE guidance, staff will not be wearing PPE, unless administering first-aid, medication or intimate care needs. If possible, medication should be administered at home.

Please reinforce the following, which is expected in school. We have child friendly posters to remind children of these important actions.

- Using a tissue: "catch it, bin it, kill it".
- Coughing/sneezing into a tissue or elbow

- Washing hands with soap
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- 1m social distancing from friends (aeroplane arms and 2m from staff)
- Independently putting on and taking off coat, opening lunch box and items of food

Moving Forward:

- Please inform your new class teacher if you had difficulties with online learning as this learning platform will continue to be used in the future.
- Please also issue your child's new teacher with **your email address** as we aim to minimise the amount of paper sent to and from school.
- We hope to have Breakfast Club and our After-School Clubs up and running mid-September, after our "new norm" has been firmly established.

We acknowledge that some children may feel anxious about returning to school- our priority will be the social and emotional well-being of all our children and we will be actively addressing this along side Literacy and Numeracy over the coming weeks.

Thank you for reading. I apologise for the length of this letter. These are unprecedented times and we do need to be fluid.

We are looking forward to seeing you all again very soon.

J.Funston
Principal