



Building a Legacy

10 September 2020

Dear Parent

Today you will receive data record sheets and 'use of images' permission sheets for your child(ren). Please read and complete these as promptly as you can and check that the details are all correct before returning to school in the (same) envelope. I'm sure I don't need to elaborate on why these details are even more important this year. *Note, too, that if we don't receive a use of images form, we will assume that consent is **not** given.* With increasing school use of social media platforms, we will not take the risk of publishing pictures of our pupils without written parental permission. Remember that no names will ever accompany children's pictures on our website or social media platforms.

You are also receiving the latest school meals' menu. I won't be updating the website on school dinners while we are in this temporary week-to-week situation and lunches are all being delivered to classrooms.

Testing & medical update

We are receiving daily calls in relation to children being ill. While we cannot provide medical advice on any grounds, we will try and support you. However, it is all parents' responsibility to judge whether their own children are healthy enough to attend school. To this end:

- Any child displaying Covid symptoms must not come to school and a test should be arranged
 - **High temperature; persistent (new) cough; loss of taste/smell**
 - <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus>
 - It is the Public Health Agency's responsibility to organise testing and follow-up instructions for everyone; please check with them as necessary
- All test results should be emailed to Mrs Morrison: smorrison790@c2kni.net
- Cold/flu symptoms or tummy upsets should be treated with caution; children who are unwell or upset should not be sent to school. We will not hesitate to send them home if we are concerned about their health or welfare. A 48 hour absence is a useful guideline in relation to tummy upsets, in particular

School procedures

A huge amount of work went into planning our restart arrangements and I would like to thank you again for your adherence to the staggered start/finish times. Please maintain your attention to these; we will inform you of any changes as and when we can. The management of children inside the building is tied into the timings, so it is imperative that we know who's in the building and who is supervising them at all times.

One of the drivers of the staggered times was the aim of avoiding parents/carers standing close together in the school grounds and this seems to be working well. I would urge everyone, however, to really try and maintain these good practices. You will understand, I hope, that inside the school there are even more procedures designed to keep everyone safe. We are all working hard every day to maintain our good practice through the use of bubbles, playground zones, a one-way system and more.

Our mission with bubbles is focused around both children's and adults' safety in the building and 'track and trace' responsibilities. However, we are well aware that bubbles become broken outside school - in families for starters. We also realise that children have friends outside their class bubbles.

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So, a request for further support from you to maximise school site safety. Please don't congregate in the grounds after pick-up or allow your children to play on the grass beside the Andrews Hall. The latter does present a safety hazard and I think it sets the wrong tone at present. We love our school family being together and using our grounds, but at the moment it just isn't appropriate. I hope that you will understand and adhere to this request, thus avoiding any difficult conversations.

In general

- Covid-19 is present in local schools; it is highly likely that it will come into our school*
- We are preparing for home learning in our class bubbles; remember that the bubbles contain the whole class and that the teacher and any classroom assistants will also be self-isolating*
- Staff have families, too; everyone is at risk and everyone is affected if someone tests positive*
- Non-adherence to school or public procedures represents a real risk to everyone's health and wellbeing; we want to remain safe and open, we must all play our part*
- Unless absolutely necessary, no parents should be inside the school building; arrangements for P1 and P2 continue, but the P2 children should be moving towards independent entry very soon, thereby removing some parents from the Foundation Stage area*
- All visitors to the school must wear masks; you will be refused admittance unless wearing one*
- Please keep a close eye on letters from school, all of which will be emailed to you and published on the relevant monthly news page of our website; also our Twitter and Facebook pages; there is likely to be more during this start of year period than usual*

I trust that our messages remain clear. If you have any queries, do let me know and I will get back to you when possible.

Kind regards and please stay safe.

Ralph Magee