



St. Colman's Primary School
and
All Saints' Nursery Unit
(Annaclone)

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Progress Through Partnership, Leading To Excellence



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Dear Parents,

Thank you very much for your continued patience and support as we approach the beginning of our new school year. Thankfully the Minister has announced a further relaxation to the social distancing measures required within the nursery and primary school settings. While this means that we can now go ahead and allow all children to return at the beginning of the term, I would like to reassure you that we will continue to follow all PHA guidance and endeavour to mitigate the risk of the Covid-19 virus within our school through a range of safety measures. We will begin the year with induction days to allow our children to settle back into school and get used to our new regulations. I have outlined how we will begin the new term, including important dates and regulations.

School return dates – Week Beginning 24th August

- Primary 2 - 7: All children will return from Monday 24th August. No children may enter the school site during this week **before** 0830. School will finish at 1200.
- Primary 1: Parents will have a Curriculum Meeting with Mrs Burns on Monday 24th of August. All information regarding dates/times and progressive school day has gone out with the packs.
- The school will be closed on Monday 31st August.
- Term 1 full school day officially beginning on Tuesday 1st of September.

Pupils from P1-P7 will likely also follow the bubble approach and work, play and eat with only their class during their time in school. Interaction with classes will be minimal and this approach along with increased social distancing where possible, and enhanced hygiene and cleaning procedures allows us to accept all pupils back on site within the current guidance. This will mean using different entrance and exit doors for each grouping.

Primary 1 children will enter the school via the doors next to Mrs Burns room and opposite to the P7 mobile.

Primary 2 children will enter via the lower playground, the double courtyard doors and into the main school corridor.

Primary 3 children will enter the school via the lower playground and the double doors that lead into the stairs in the new building.

Primary 4 children will enter the school via the doors of the class mobile.

Primary 5 children will enter the school via the ramp and the main school entrance

Primary 6 children will enter the school via the lower playground single exterior door near the staffroom.

Primary 7 children will enter the school via the doors of the class mobile.

Next week in a letter to children, we will annotate the above directions with a map and photographs.

Initial drop off arrangements

Children can be dropped-off between **8.30 – 8.55** (school gates will not be open before 0830). Children will enter the school via the front gate. They will walk directly to their classroom via their designated entrance where they will sanitise their hands on entry. (Initially there will be no outside play at the beginning of the school day.)

We would encourage those children who can walk to school to come later in this window. (e.g. 0850) This allows for those parents that are working to drop their children off and a steady arrival of children across the 30 minutes means that social distancing and the need for hygiene controls can be managed more easily by staff.

The daily prayers and school assembly in the school hall (circa 10-15 mins in length) **initially will not be taking place**. Formal lessons/learning will not start until 0900, which allows for all of us to arrive safely and without panic or fluster before lessons begin.

Primary 1 parents may wish to walk their child to their classroom door at the beginning of the term. Parents are not to enter the classrooms at any times due to our child protection and Covid-19 procedures.

Initial pick up arrangements

School pick-up arrangements:

- NU and P1 children follow the agreed information in the **school packs**. This is a phased approach and timings do change as September progresses.
- Primary 2 children will be walked to the front gate at 1345 for collection.
- Primary 3 children will be walked to the front gate at 1345 for collection.
- Primary 4-7 children will be walked to front gate at 1435 for collection.

Initially we are not able to offer breakfast club, after schools or extended schools clubs. We hope to be able to do so in time and will inform you about this as soon as we can.

EA have **STILL** yet to confirm the **local arrangements** for transport. My sincere apologies for this, I have sought clarification on the matter and am told that discussions remain ongoing. The most recent guidance on the matter reads as follows:

"While parents and children should be encouraged to use other means of travelling to school for example, walking or cycling where it is safe and reasonable to do so, we recognise that for many children the home to school transport network may be the only available option. There will therefore be no requirement for children to follow public transport guidance for social distancing between pupils on dedicated home to school transport vehicles."

We ask that those collecting children support the collection arrangements to mitigate risk. We ask that you all adhere to social distancing guidance and refrain from bunching at the school gate. We ask that you drive very carefully to and from the school at all times.

Mostly we ask you to show patience and understanding of the need for all and any measures that we implement.

Please ensure that any other trusted adult that is collecting your child is aware of the drop-off / pick-up guidelines.

Children who are unwell or become unwell in school.

It is of paramount importance that if your child has been unwell the night before or in the morning that they remain at home especially if they are showing Covid-19 symptoms. **Please do not send a child who is unwell in any way to school.** We ask that parents take their child/children's temperature in the morning before leaving for school. If a child presents unwell during the school day we will contact parents immediately and arrangements must be made to take the child home. Please bear this in mind and have arrangements in place for child's collection in this situation.

Everyone has their part to play in keeping each other safe and further communication will be provided about the steps to take where a child or adult has symptoms, or has been in contact with someone who has symptoms, consistent with Coronavirus. This will be based on the most up to date guidance available at the time.

Social Distancing

Whilst social distancing guidelines within the primary school setting have been relaxed, we will strive to keep them in place as much as possible. Classes will be 'bubbled' and we will keep interaction between classes to a minimum. This will mean staggered break and lunch times and a cessation of all clubs until further notice.

Hygiene Measures

All children/staff will be required to wash their hands/use hand sanitisers on entering the school and regularly throughout the day. Good personal hygiene practices will be actively encouraged. Extra cleaning and sanitising will be prioritised, and we will have stringent hygiene measures and reactive strategies in place following guidance from EA and the PHA.

School Meals / Snack

School meals (wraps/sandwiches) will be available to all children as normal from **Tuesday 1st September**. Meals will be served to classroom 'bubbles' and there may be a reduced menu (more details to follow). Packed lunches should be in disposable packaging. Children should take a healthy snack into school every day. **(It is very important that all children get their full breakfast and have a snack with them daily)**. We hope that the early autumn weather will allow opportunities for fun 'picnic' or outdoor lunches.

School Bags/Pencil Cases

School bags will not be needed initially. Children can take in their labelled pencil case with essential items (see listed items attached). Pencil cases will remain in school.

Clubs

Breakfast Club (0815 – 0845) will **not be available** at the beginning of the term. We hope to be able to commence the club in the future with strict social distancing. *After Schools Club (1345 – 1435 for P1-P3)* and *Extended After Schools Club (1435 – 1800)* will **also not run initially**. This is under constant review and it is a service that we do wish to provide again. We will re-open wrap-a-round care, at the first opportunity that we believe it is safe to do so.

School uniform

Full uniform will be worn as normal. We ask that you try to keep uniforms as clean as possible. You will be informed of your child's PE days at the beginning of the term. Children can wear their PE gear into school on those days to help with the practicality of this.

It is important to remember that the situation regarding schools remains fluid. Changes can happen very quickly so it is important that you are prepared for possible short and/or long term closures over the coming months. We are currently reviewing our online provision in terms of home learning in the event of further closures (more details to follow).

I will send out further important information over the coming days and our usual beginning of the year letter will be sent out on Tuesday 1st September.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns about your child returning to school please contact me at the school at any time koneill344@c2kni.net or 40671363

We are looking forward to welcoming back all our children as best we can in these challenging and unique circumstances and it is only with parental support and cooperation that we can make this work. I thank you for your continued patience and cooperation and look forward to working in closer partnerships again with yourselves soon.

Best wishes to all of you.

Mr K O'Neill
Principal

