

St Ninian's Weekly Newsletter

Teach with Love and Learn with Pride

14 August 2020

Issue 1



Welcome back from Lockdown!

It's an absolute joy to be back at school. It has been five months since we last had our whole school community together and we are looking forward to Monday when all of our children are back to full time education.

Life has been very different for all of us over these past months in what has been a very difficult time. We would like to say a huge thank you to all our families for the effort and commitment to engage our children in the home learning tasks set by the teachers.

I'd also like to say thank you to staff for the hard work and creativity they continued to show each week to try to engage the children with their learning, for the phone calls and video calls that were made to check in with the children's wellbeing.

We loved seeing all the learning that was taking place at home and the quality time that families were having together and we look forward to hearing more about it as the children settle back into learning.

We will continue with our planned focus on Health & Wellbeing this term, ensuring that the children have opportunities to talk about their experiences, emotions and anxieties as they return to the 'new' normal experiences of school life.

We have been provided with an additional 0.5 teacher to help support the Recovery process and have timetabled experienced staff to support this important journey for our children.

As a Catholic community we give thanks to God for keeping us all safe, and we pray for those who have lost loved ones during this time. We will continue to focus our prayers on those who are sick, those in hospital and those struggling in this difficult time. As a faith school we unite as we remember those worldwide who have died in this pandemic.

SCHOOL HOURS – 9.00A.M.- 3.00 P.M. (WHOLE SCHOOL)

Initially we had planned to have a staggered timetable for entering/leaving school. Having reviewed our procedures over the past 3 days, I am delighted to say that we are able to facilitate normal school hours of 9am start and 3pm close for everyone.

To ensure this is successful we ask:

- Maintain the 2M social distance at the school gates
- discuss with your child where you will pick them up
- drop off and move on, do not congregate outside the school after drop off
- park further away from the school and walk the short distance

Physical Education

At the moment your child will have one PE session each week and should come to school dressed for outdoor physical activity. We will not be using the school hall. Your child's PE Day is as follows:

Day	Class
Monday	Primary 7A&7B, Primary 1A (Mrs Hunter's Class)
Tuesday	Primary 1B (Mrs Clark), Primary 2, Primary 5B (Miss Oliver), Primary 4B (Mrs Rose)
Wednesday	Primary 5A (Miss Lymburn/Mr Pollock), Primary 2/3, Primary 3
Thursday	Primary 4A (Mrs Erskine), P6A & P6B

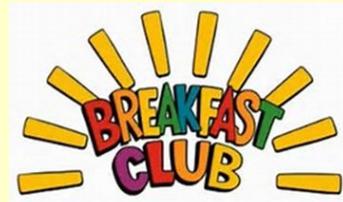
School Gates and Entrance Points

Please discuss with your child their safe route to school.

To alleviate congestion please park a short distance away from the school and walk your child safely. We have a school crossing patrol at Drumshantie/George Road. If using this entrance please allow your child to cross safely with the crossing patrol officer, this means that you are helping to keep everyone safe by maintaining social distance. It would really help keep everyone safe if parents didn't linger at the gate after drop off. Your children will be safe and settled in school. The playground is supervised by the Senior Management Team and Support Staff from 8.45am.

Breakfast & After School Club

There will be no breakfast club or after school clubs until further notice.



Playground Supervision

The school playground is supervised from 8.45 am by Support Staff and the Senior Management Team. **Please do not drop your child off prior to this as we cannot ensure their safety in the playground.**

Safeguarding Children

To safeguard our children we ask that parents do not take any photos of our children in the playground. We do not have permission to photograph all children in our school therefore we ask that if any photos have been taken previously that they do not appear on social media. Thank you for helping us to protect our children.



MUGA Mile

Each class will be participating in the MUGA mile, a daily walk around the MUGA for approximately 15 minutes. Please remember to make sure your child has appropriate clothing for outdoors.

Twitter

Teachers are very busy organising class twitter accounts which will be set up very soon. These accounts are to give parents the opportunity to see what is happening in class and to chat to their children about their learning. Please do not communicate with teachers directly through private message on twitter. All communication should be through the school office.

Water At School

Please send water to school with your child for drinking. Our water fountains are out of use due to COVID-19.

We will encourage children to drink water throughout the school day. No diluting juice should be sent to school as we are a health promoting school unless a child has a medical discussion which has been discussed with the head teacher.

Lost Property

We have already had a number of pieces of clothing found lying around the school with no name on them. Please label your children's clothing. Please remember there should be no pencil cases brought to school or no toys.

School Buses

Our school buses will run as normal. There will be no social distancing on the bus. Children will be picked up at their usual stops. All Primary 1 children will be allocated a bus buddy to help them on their journey.

First Holy Communion for our current Primary 5 Children

Mrs McCabe is currently discussing when this will take place with Father Gerry. Further information will follow.

Annual Data Check/Annual Trip Consent Form

Our Office staff will be sending these out in schoolbags over the next few weeks. Please complete and return to school as soon as possible.