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Date: 03.07.20



Education and Families

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for your patience in what us a very uncertain time for us all.

We have had several enquiries regarding return to school. Unfortunately, I am unable to answer some of these as yet. The current situation regarding the virus is ever changing and we await further advice on return to school from the deputy first minister by 31st of July. Please use the link given through groupcall to find latest NLC school updates.

Please be assured that everything we do within the school will be for the health and safety of all. I have a duty of care to our children, our staff and the whole school community. We also have a large number of staff with underlying health issues. Until I receive further guidance, the advice given out before the summer holidays still stands.

We have to lessen viral transmission: therefore classes have been reorganised to ensure surfaces are clear as much as possible to allow thorough cleaning to take place. As staff, we have very strict conditions to adhere to lessen transmission.

We have 180 children and can have over twenty adults in the school and it is my duty to ensure that we continue to lessen the chances of viral transmission:

- Ties: I know that many parents are disappointed about no ties but I must ask for your patience and understanding in this. Through the course of the school day, ties can fall off, be used as bandanas, be chewed in mouths, trailed across tables. Children also ask staff to help put them back on. Therefore to minimise spread through this, Mrs Kesley and I discussed this and I made the final decision that **ties will presently not be part of our uniform**. I am aware that some schools are keeping ties and some schools are not; I hope that you know me well enough that I do not make snap or unnecessary decisions and I ask for your support in this matter.
- Uniform: **our uniform still consists, as always, of grey trousers/shorts/skirts/pinafores**. In the past and indeed present, we have children coming into school with shorts unsuitable for school and I have had to have difficult discussions to ensure that all children are dressed appropriately. This seems the ideal time to respectfully remind everyone that our colour is grey and not black; also leggings and jeans should not be worn to school. I must stress at



this point that **dark joggers are not part of our school uniform**. This was only as alternative to you as we will be participating in outdoor learning and we have many children who worry about getting their uniforms dirty. Children will not presently be able to change into P.E. kits. We also have pupils who insist on wearing joggers of any colour to school. I am trying my very best to ensure that children are dressed appropriately in school uniform and when this present situation is over, I will be discussing with the Parent Council about how to develop and keep high standards of uniform.

- Polo shirts and sweat shirts: this is our original uniform which many children already wear. As previously explained, this will let your children participate more easily in physical and active learning. It also means that it lessens the chance of staff having to help children with clothing as polo and sweat shirts are easier for children to manage than shirts.

All the staff spent our return to school in physically setting up classrooms, clearing materials, organising resources. Thanks to the Parent Council, we have now organised a pencil case for each child with pencils, ruler, eraser, sharpener (with scissors and play dough in some): this means that your child will not have to share resources and we can keep any transmission to a minimum.

We received guidance from the council that school bags can be brought to school: bags can hold water bottles and lunch/snack. **At the moment, no other item must be brought from home.**

As we are all aware, advice and guidance is ever changing; however, the advice above which was given before the holidays will remain in place until further notice and I hope it clears up any final questions you have. I very much thank you all for support given.

I hope you are all enjoying the holidays and we look forward to seeing you in August.

With kindest regards,

Fiona Easton
Head Teacher