**August 2020 Newsletter**



Welcome back to all pupils after a long period away from school. We are delighted to be able to return to school full time and staff are eager to get pupils back on track with their learning. All pupils, including our new Primary 1, have settled very quickly into school life and have been a credit to their families. We look forward to working with you all over the coming terms.

**Classes**

This year’s classes are as follows:

* Primary 1 – Mrs. Crockett
* Primary 2 – Miss R. Steven
* Primary 3 – Miss O’Neill
* Primary 4 - Mrs. Cusack
* Primary 5 – Mr. Kearns
* Primary 6 - Ms. Gallacher
* Primary 7 - Miss H. Steven & Mrs. O’Rourke

In addition, Miss Hendrie will be working with groups of children in primaries two and three to further support learning at these early stages.

**Drop off and Pick up**

Drop off / pick up times are as follows:

P1-3 - 9am and 2.55pm

P4-7 - 9am and 3pm

To ease congestion and minimise contact at drop off and pick up times we ask that you follow these rules:

* Follow the one way system for pedestrians on entry / exit of the school grounds. Please follow directions on gates to identify the correct entry and exit points.
* Only one adult per family to attend for drop off / pick up.
* Vacate the school grounds as soon as your child has been dropped off or collected. Parents will not be permitted to congregate in the school grounds.
* Parents / carers are not permitted beyond the perimeter fence.
* If travelling by car, please remain in your car until your child’s class has been dismissed.
* Maintain social distancing between other adults / children at all times.

 **Playground Zones**

The school playground has been split into three zones to minimise the interaction amongst year groups. Pupils will remain in these designated zones during interval and lunchtimes.

* Primary 1 & 2 - Zone 2
* Primary 3 & 4 - Zone 1
* Primaries 5, 6 & 7 - Zone 3

**Breakfast Club**

A reminder that we run a breakfast service in school every day from 8.15am. This service is free to those in receipt of free school meals and to **all** pupils in Primary 1 – 3. For all other pupils the cost is £1 per day with a sliding scale for families of 2 at £1.50 per day and families of 3 at £1.80 per day. Payments must be made online using the ipay system.

**Class Groups / Bubbles**

While we are no longer required to separate the children into two groups for blended learning we will treat each class as a bubble and will limit mixing with other classes as far as possible. This is to enable us to track and trace the movements of each class should there be a covid outbreak within the school. While risk can never be fully eliminated, tight management of class movement will enable us to establish clearly where there may have been a risk of virus transmission and will allow us to act accordingly.

**Teaching**

As children are no longer required to socially distance from one another we will be able to seat 2 children to each desk safely. We will operate a clean desk policy to facilitate cleaning and will use our learning wallets to avoid unnecessary sharing of resources. Please note staff are required to maintain a social distance from one another and from the children where possible. Face coverings may be used by staff to facilitate this on occasion.

**Inside The School Building**

* Hand sanitising stations are located at the entrance to each classroom and toilet. Pupils will be required to sanitise or use hand washing facilities on entry and exit, before and after break times and before and after toilet breaks.
* An additional day time cleaning regime is also in place with all touch points and desk surfaces being cleaned regularly throughout the school day.
* Classroom windows will be open to encourage ventilation.
* Cloakrooms are not in use. Pupils will store jackets on the backs of their chairs and school bags / lunch bags under their tables.
* Pupils / staff are encouraged to stick to the left when moving around the school.
* Individual classroom doors will be used to allow pupils to access the yard directly from their classroom.

**Lunch Times**

We continue to request that children remain in school for lunches wherever possible, to cut down on footfall during the school day. A cashless system is now in place and parents are required to make online payments for school lunches. This is done through the ipay system. Please use the following link to set up an account if you haven’t already done so. School codes have been issued to all parents.

<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=22284>

Pupils will access the dinner hall in their zoned groups with each class sitting at separate tables. Pupils are also welcome to eat packed lunches in the school yard in good weather.

**Gym Days**

At present, we are not permitted to deliver indoor P.E. Staff will aim to deliver outdoor P.E. weekly, weather permitting. Pupils will not require to change into P.E. kit

A reminder that P.E. kit consists of a yellow top, black shorts / leggings and gym shoes.

**Diamond Award**

The introduction of our Diamond Award a number of years ago has proven to be very successful in promoting positive behaviour of pupils and in improving school attendance rates. It is our plan to continue with this award in Session 2020 / 2021 with the hope that even more of our pupils will achieve the award this year. Pupils have the opportunity to gain a gold star every week in their homework diary. With a possible 40 gold stars over the course of the year, this allows eight weeks grace, making the award attainable for all. If pupils are likely to have a prolonged period of absence due to illness or family circumstances, this should be discussed with a member of staff to allow this to be accommodated on an individual basis. The awards are as follows:

5 gold stars – Bronze Award

10 gold stars – Silver Award

20 gold stars - Gold Award

32 gold starts – Diamond Award

**Illness procedure**

**Protocols in event of someone developing symptoms of Covid 19 at school –**

If children develop any symptoms such as a new continuous cough, a loss of (or change in) their normal sense of taste or smell or a high temperature we will take immediate action.

We have a dedicated isolation room where they will be taken and cared for by a member of staff who is known to them until a parent/carer can come and collect them. Please follow national guidance by contacting your doctor or calling 111. Please self-isolate for 10 days and your whole household should self-isolate for 14 days. If anyone in your household is displaying symptoms please do not bring your child to school and follow the same procedures.

**Item drop off**

If you require to drop something off for your child during the course of the school day eg. packed lunch, a trolley will be placed inside the school entrance for this purpose. Please ensure that all items are labelled with your child’s name and class. This prevents the need for parents to enter the school building.

**Parental Visits**

A reminder that, due to current restrictions, parents are not permitted to enter the school building unless by prior appointment. We still have a number of parents attempting to enter the school on a daily basis. Should you wish to speak to a member of school staff, please telephone the school on 794818 to arrange a suitable time.

If a parent has a pre-arranged appointment we ask that you arrive wearing a mask and complete the relevant track and trace paperwork at the office.

If you require further information on anything contained within this newsletter, or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Sweeney.