



# St Dallan's Primary School

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Dear Parents/Guardians

As a member of a group of Primary Principals of local schools, we have had a series of meetings to discuss the way forward and laterally the implications of the Department of Education publication, 'Northern Ireland Re-Opening School Guidance: New School Day', issued Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020. With due regard given to the pastoral care of our pupils, staff and indeed the parent body we have reached a consensus which we would like to communicate with you:

- Schools in our area will reopen on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August** for an **induction week** which will focus on the pastoral needs of our pupils, their health and wellbeing and the enhancement of a 'reconnect' between pupil and school, helping our pupils settle back into the new school day and the changes to their school environment. Specific details regarding dates and times will be provided in due course.
- Various patterns for reopening are being discussed. Schools will communicate with you their most viable options. However, as Principals we are aware that the situation remains fluid and subject to change, if for instance, social distancing requirements are amended.
- Arrangements regarding staggered arrivals/collections may be necessary and details will be communicated to you on an individual school basis. All parents will be asked to remain outside school buildings to reduce footfall and the potential spread of the virus.
- Pupils are asked to wear a fresh school uniform every day. This may alternate between their formal uniform/school tracksuit.
- School bags or other items from home should not be brought into school. Packed lunches should be in disposable packaging.
- No guidance has yet been issued to schools with regard to nursery provision, transport or school meals. Details will follow.
- We as Principals and our school staff will be reinforcing the good practice that you are undertaking at home, to educate your children in the necessary measures for minimising the spread of the virus, e.g. 'Catch it, Bin It, Kill It', thorough handwashing, maintaining social distance etc. We trust that this good practice will continue.
- It is your responsibility to access and follow school communications e.g. Website, school app etc. Please ensure that you regularly access those platforms employed by our school.

Please be aware that this information is subject to change in light of evolving DE Guidance and may change between now and 24<sup>th</sup> August, therefore decisions on the day to day running of the school will be communicated to you accordingly. As a group we will continue to meet over the summer to explore how the needs of our pupils will be met and yet remain compliant with Department of Education and Public Health Authority Guidance. We appreciate your ongoing support and we look forward to working in partnership to ensure our schools remain a place of comfort and nurture for all.

Regards

Mrs. U. Farrell  
Principal