



St Dallan's Primary School

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Dear Parents/Guardians

We very much hope you are all enjoying the well-earned Summer break and I am sure your thoughts are on the children's return to school. I would like to once again take the opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continued support over the school year and especially over the past few months.

As a school we are trying to keep you updated in all that is happening and we will continue to do so throughout the Summer break especially with the situation being very fluid and ever changing.

In the past few months we had been working in the absence of guidance from the Minister of Education and Department of Education until we received the document 'Northern Ireland Re-opening School Guidance: New School Day' which was published on 19 June. Unfortunately, this document has not provided the clarity needed and may be changed and updated between now and 24 August but for now it is what we, as a school, are legally obliged to follow.

We have assessed our school's arrangements in line with guidance especially the current 1m socially distancing rule and as I stated in our previous correspondence we will be able to accommodate the return of all the children on a full time basis. However, in line with the current guidelines there will have to be a few changes which will be regularly updated, reviewed and amended as necessary.

In order to help you begin to prepare for the children's return to school we have laid out some new procedures and measures which we will be implementing in order to maximise the safety of everyone in our school community.

- From Monday 24 August until Friday 28 August school will be open from 9 am – 12 noon for all Primary 7 children.
- Groups of children from P2 to P6 will also attend on certain days of this week; Specific details regarding the start dates for each group of children will be provided in due course (most likely mid August)
- Please note there will be no school dinners during this induction week.
- This induction process will allow us to focus on the pastoral needs of our pupils, their health and well-being, reconnect with school, help them settle back into the new school day and the changes to their new school environment.
- Please note school will be closed on Monday 31 August for the Bank Holiday

- From Tuesday 1 September when all the children are back to school there will be staggered arrivals/collections as there will be limitations on the number of parents/carers allowed on to the school site so as to reduce footfall and the potential spread of the virus. These details will be communicated to you in August and therefore unfortunately following EA guidance parents will be unable to enter the school building. However, we very much want to maintain the close home-school link that exists, so we encourage parents to use the following form of contact if they wish to discuss anything with their class teacher: speak to a member of the office staff or telephone/email the office who will pass on the message or arrange for the teacher to contact you.
- There will be additional entrances and exit doors for each class.
- Hand sanitisers will be available at all entrances and exits to the school, appropriate signage will be displayed and regular hand washing will be encouraged.
- As per DE guidance it is suggested that pupils wear a fresh uniform every day. This may alternate between their formal uniform and tracksuit. Again, it is suggested that they change out of their uniform as soon as they come home from school.
- DE has instructed that no PPE gear is to be worn or brought into school.
- The issue of children coming to school with a coat is still to be discussed by EA.
- School bags or other items from home should not be brought into school. (More details on this will follow in August). Within school, under current guidance children will not be allowed to share resources and will be sitting at a desk by themselves where possible, however with younger children we will be creating 'bubbles'. A bubble is a discreet group whose members will interact with each other but not with any other classes and again more details on this will follow.
- If your child is taking a packed lunch this should be in disposable packaging. Please do not send your child into school with a lunchbox.
- School meals will be available as usual and must be booked and paid for in advance through our new cashless system, details of which have been communicated through our website. Further details will follow.
- There will be staggered break times and lunch times.
- Initially, there will be no afterschool clubs, Garden Room or Sunflower Club facility, however we appreciate that this is a valued service and we aim to keep this under constant review as guidelines allow us to.
- In line with our safety first approach, children who are ill must not be sent to school. If a child arrives in school and is ill, you will be asked to take the child home.

We fully appreciate that this is a very difficult situation for everyone and we as a school are fully committed to protecting the whole school community. These measures have been formulated using the most current up to date advice but this could change over the coming weeks as the situation remains fluid. We will continue to review the situation and any changing guidelines and will endeavour to keep you updated in the coming weeks.

We are very much looking forward to the children's return to school and until then we hope that you all continue to enjoy the Summer holidays.

Yours sincerely

Mrs U Farrell
Principal