



12 Courtenay Hill, Newry, Co Down, BT34 2EA

Phone: (028) 3026 2175

24 August 2021

Dear Parents

I hope that you have had a wonderful summer. I held off as long as possible before providing clarity regarding back to school arrangements as I wanted to base them on the most current guidance available.

**School bags, lunch boxes, water bottles and pencil cases**

*Pupils can take these to school with them this year. I would point out, however, that we would recommend the school book bag for P1 and P2 pupils. This can be purchased from the school office and it is the correct size to hold the workbooks that pupils will use. We often find that school bags suitable for our younger pupils are too small.*

Please refer to the school website for the definitive guide to our school uniform. We are very, very proud of how well our families comply with the uniform and it sends out a very positive message regarding our school. Thank you in advance as I know that this year will be no exception.

*This year pupils will wear their full uniform 3 days per week and tracksuit on the other 2. Your child's PE days will be notified once we have received dates for external coaches who will be coming to school this year.*

Please note that the summer uniform is a **striped dress** and not a checked pattern. The check pattern dress is a uniform of another school.

#### **Help with uniforms**

A. I remind parents that we have a supply of pre loved uniforms freshly laundered and stored in school. Should you need to access this, please call to school and we will be delighted to help you out.

B. We would be very happy to receive good quality, laundered uniforms that your own child might have outgrown.

C. Please remember that uniform assistance grants are available from EA. Please contact Mrs Downey in the school office if you need assistance with this.

#### **Required mitigations on return to School ( Ref DE guidance)**

- Pupils must continue to wear masks on bus or taxi. (Please give your child a sealable plastic bag to store mask when unworn.)
- We need to be assured of full compliance from parents with PHA guidance if a child is isolating either because of -

A) covid symptoms

B) positive result

C) close contact status or

D) having returned to Northern Ireland and isolating in line with NI Direct travel advice and regulations.

- Designated entrance and exit points per class, refer to attached overview.
- Parents are asked to maintain 2 m distancing and are discouraged from gathering outside school grounds.
- Hand and Respiratory hygiene messages will continue to be shared with pupils.



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- Ventilation of the school building will be managed carefully.

#### **Free School Meals / Uniform Allowance**

Once again, we remind parents that application should be made on-line to EA for Free School Meals / Uniform Allowance. Even if you think your child will not avail of the free school meals, please make the application so you do not miss out on the Uniform Allowance. School Meals will have to be paid for (or lunches taken) until approval is received from EA for the award of Free School Meals. The Free School Numbers also have an impact on the budget our school receives.

#### **Booking Lunches/Dinners on the Cashless System**

*Please remember to book your packed lunches/Free School Meals on the School Cashless System prior to the start of each week. This system will be up and running on Friday morning of this week. If you have been approved by EA for Free School Meals, you will not generate a cost on the Cashless System but please ensure that you complete the transaction by visiting the basket and completing. If you have forgotten to book the meal for that day, please contact the school office.*

#### **Clubs**

See below the application form for a place on the Early morning and 2-3pm After School Clubs.

Please note other clubs may become available as the year proceeds for extra - curricular activities.

#### **School Day times from 1st September:**

P2- P3: 8.45 - 2.00 \* P1 will also adhere to these times when they have completed their start of year induction.

P4-P7: 8.45 - 3.00 pm

#### **School Bus**

The school bus will not be available for Induction Day but will be running as normal from 1 September 2021.

#### **Updating Pupil Details**

If you have changed your address or any family details, please email [bdowney378@c2kni.net](mailto:bdowney378@c2kni.net) with the updates.

#### **Dietary Needs**

If your child has any **NEW OR CHANGED** dietary needs, please advise the school office as soon as possible, in order that our Staff School Meals Staff can be advised.

#### **Vaccinations**

The up-to-date guidance issued by DENI does not include for vaccination or testing of primary school pupils.

Please be assured that parental consent will be requested if the guidelines change at any time in the future.

In relation to the **annual flu vaccination** due in October, letters from the Health Service will be sent home prior to this date for parents to complete and return.



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### **Induction day 31st August**

I look forward to welcoming all P2-P7 children back to school for their induction morning on Tuesday 31st August.

The arrangements are:

P2, 3 & 4 9.00 am - 11.30

P5, 6 & 7 9.15 - 12.00

Pupils can bring a snack with them for break on this day. As stated previously there will be no school meals nor bus operating on this day.

### **School Holidays**

A list of the School Holidays for 2021-2022 is published on our website.

Yours in anticipation of a great 21/22 school year,

Mrs Monaghan