



St. Teresa's Primary School
60 Tullyherron Road
Mountnorris
Co. Armagh
BT60 2UF

PRINCIPAL: Mrs. Sinead Mc Court

Tel/Fax: 028 37 507 397

Email: info@stteresas.tullyherron.ni.sch.uk

School Website : www.stteresastullyherron.com

18th August 2020

Dear Parents,

We very much hope that you all had an enjoyable Summer and we are looking forward to welcoming the children back next week. Having reviewed the information guidance from the Department of Education issued on the 13th August 2020, "Northern Ireland Re-Opening Schools Guidance, New School Day" we can now provide you with further information.

Our Induction Week on Monday 24th- Friday 28th August is as follows:

Monday 24th	Tuesday 25 th	Wednesday 26th	Thursday 27th	Friday 28th
P7, P5, P2	P7, P5, P2	P7, P6, P4, P1	P7, P6, P4, P3, P1	P7, P6, P5, P4, P3, P2, P1

For this initial week, with the exception of Primary 7 pupils who will be in school for the full day 8.35 am – 2.35 pm, all other year groups will be in school for morning sessions only 8.35 am – 12 noon with children returning home for lunch. Pupils are requested to wear their school PE Uniform for this Induction Week. There will be no school bus available for this Induction week.

The Induction week will help our pupils settle back into the new school day and adapted environment. Teachers will focus on some Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Well-being activities with the children to ensure they make a smooth transition back to school.

Our Induction Week will also enable staff to evaluate and review new school routines and safety practices. The normal school day will begin for all year groupings including Reception from Tuesday 1st September from the following times:

Reception: 8.35 am – 1 o'clock.

P1-P2: 8.35 am - 1.35 pm.

P3-P7: 8.35 am -2.35 pm.

In order to ensure our school environment is as safe as possible for all pupils, we have assessed our school situation in line with the DE guidance and have laid out some new procedures. We will be implementing these procedures in order to maximise the safety of everyone in our school community.

Drop off and Collection Routines

To ensure that large gatherings of people can be avoided and social distancing maintained, we have given careful consideration to the arrangements for drop-off and collection to and from school.

The School Bus will be arriving at the School in the morning at 8.20 am. In order to give the children travelling on the bus adequate time to enter the school premises and to stagger arrival times we would like children travelling by car to arrive at school from 8.30 am- 8.45 am. Punctuality will be key to ensure that this system is effective. P2-P7 children must be left at the school gate where initially the children will be met by members of staff and guided to the appropriate entrance. Rec –P1 children may be escorted to the Foundation Classroom Entrance where they will be met by members of staff. Adults entering school premises must wear a face mask. An older sibling may also accompany their younger brother or sister to the classroom.

The School Bus will be leaving School in the afternoon at 2.20 pm. Children who travel by car should be collected between 2.25 pm – 2.35 pm. Please again adhere to social distancing guidelines at these collection times.

School Transport

It is strongly recommended by DE advice that all pupils should wear a face covering while travelling on the school bus. If your child's mask is a reuseable one, show them how to take it off as soon as they exit the bus. This needs to be placed in a clean sealable bag (zipped sandwich bag). Pupils will be encouraged to sit beside siblings or pupils from their class.

Arrival Procedure

As DE guidance has recommended that Primary School children return to school and learn and work within a protective bubble, this means a class will act as a single consistent group or bubble, with minimal prolonged interaction with other classes within the school.

To implement this strategy P6/P7 pupils will always enter and exit via the main school front door, P3/4/5 will enter and exit via the main school back door and Foundation class will enter and exit their classroom door.

Hand sanitizers will be placed at all of these entrances, appropriate signage will be displayed and pupils will sanitize and wash hands on entry to school. Regular hand washing will be encouraged throughout the School day.

We would appreciate it if you could begin to promote safe practice including social distancing, regular hand washing and good respiratory hygiene using the “catch it, bin it, kill it” approach.

School Uniforms

We request that pupils wear their **full School uniform** on **Monday, Wednesday and Friday** and **PE tracksuit** on **Tuesday and Thursday** to ensure time for clothes to be cleaned between wearing. A School coat may be bought into school.

School bags, Lunch Boxes and Stationery

- At present no school bags or lunchboxes are currently required.
- Those children who take lunch must use disposable bags (preferably eco-friendly). Staff will not be permitted to handle any of the children’s items so please make sure your child is able to manage any items sent in.
- Children may continue to bring in their reuseable water bottles (As we promote Healthy Living only water must be contained in the water bottle. Please label).
- Children should bring the following items to school on their induction day. These items will remain in school in children’s individual trays thereafter. Pocket sized tissues and a hand sanitizer (If you could write your child’s name on these, this would be extremely helpful).

All Stationery items will be provided by the School for your child including Pencils, pens, colouring pens/pencils/crayons, small hand scissors, pritt stick glue, ruler, sharpener, rubber etc. **Children are not permitted to share resources.**

Pupils may also bring in their own pencil case and stationery, this will have to remain in School.

More information on how best to manage work going home will be given in due course. Should you have any reading books from last Term, can you please return these to school as soon as possible.

School Meals

A hot meal will be available for Free School meals pupils and other pupils who wish to avail of them (£2.60 daily). Free School Meals / Uniform Grant can be found via the following link:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals>

Payments to School Secretary

In order to maximise the safety of everyone in our school community and to limit footfall and a potential spread of the virus, we request that all money which needs to be paid for School dinners/ Afterschool should be placed in an envelope each Monday morning and sent in to School with your child. Our School Secretary Nicola will collect these envelopes from each class. Please put details of money enclosed on the outside of envelope.

Home School Links

In order to maintain our good home-school links, should you for any reason wish to speak to a member of staff, we encourage you to contact our School Secretary Nicola who will arrange for your child's teacher to contact you.

Rec/P1/P2 Afterschool

We hope this Afterschool will resume later in September. Further information will follow.

Sickness Procedure

In line with our safety-first approach, children who are ill or have any Covid 19 symptoms or if symptoms exist within your immediate family your child must not be sent to school. Keep school informed by a telephone call on the first day of absence and regularly thereafter. If a child arrives in school and is ill, you will be contacted and asked to take the child home.

Due to staffing, child protection and health and safety procedures we are unable to allow pupils to remain indoors during break and lunchtimes.

Further to the above, we have some perspex screens made for the staff. A member of the local community has donated a set of visors for staff use and a Parent has donated a Hand Sanitizer, we are very grateful to have received these.

We should also like to mention, at this stage, that if you have been on a foreign holiday, that you observe the government guidance on self-isolation upon your return.

We would like to stress the importance of downloading and checking our school website app regularly as it is currently our main method of communication in this ever changing situation.

The above procedures have been formulated from Department of Education guidance issued on the 13th August 2020, "Northern Ireland Re-Opening Schools Guidance, New School Day". We will continue to review the situation and we will endeavour to keep you updated.

I would like to thank you for your commitment over the last few months. We appreciate that it will take some time to get used to these new procedures, however with everyone's cooperation we will adapt to the new routine. I have no doubt that with your continued support we will ensure a safe return to school for all our children. We are looking forward to welcoming the children back and to a safe, happy and enjoyable new school year.

Yours Faithfully,
Sinead Mc Court