



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 March 2021

Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to the Primary 4 to Primary 7 children returning back to school on Monday 22nd March. I would like to pay tribute to the Reception, Primary 1 to Primary 3 pupils who have settled back to school extremely well. They are really enjoying their face to face teaching and learning and seeing their friends and teachers again.

In order to ensure we maximise the safety of everyone in our school community on the return of all our pupils, our school procedures are as follows:

School Day

Reception: 8.35am – 1.00pm

Primary 1 & Primary 2: 8.35am - 1.35pm

Primary 3 to Primary 7: 8.35am -2.35pm

There will be no Afterschool for Reception to Primary 2 pupils during this period as directed by Department of Education.

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 **8.20am**. 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 **8.30am- 8.45am**. Punctuality will be key to ensure that this system is effective.

Reception, Primary 1 & Primary 2 children may be escorted to the Foundation Classroom Entrance where they will be met by members of staff. An older sibling may also accompany their younger brother or sister to the classroom.

Primary 3 to Primary 7 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.

Reception children should be collected from their main Classroom door at 1.00pm.

Primary 1 and Primary 2 children should be collected from their main Classroom door at 1.35pm. **Adults entering school premises must wear a face mask.**

The School Bus will be leaving School in the afternoon at **2.20pm**. Children who travel by car should be collected between **2.25pm – 2.35pm**. 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. 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 Primary 3 to Primary 5 pupils will enter and exit via the main school back door, Primary 6 and 7 pupils will enter and exit via the main school front door, and Foundation class will enter and exit via 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 if you could continue promoting safe practice including social distancing, regular hand washing and good respiratory hygiene using the “**catch it, bin it, kill it**” approach.

School Meals

School Meals will continue to be available from **Monday 22nd March 2021** for pupils entitled to Free School meals and other pupils who wish to avail of them (£2.60 daily). The Dinner Menu is available on our School Website.

School Uniforms

From **Monday 22nd to Friday 26th March** we request that all pupils wear their **School PE tracksuit** each day. A school coat should also be bought into school.

From **Monday 12th April** we will return to our normal School Uniform procedures, we request that pupils wear their **full School uniform** on **Monday and Wednesday** and **school PE tracksuit** on **Tuesday, Thursday and Friday**.

School bags, Lunch Boxes and stationary

Primary 4 to Primary 7 children should bring the following items to school on Monday 22nd March:

- **The final week’s work from their Learning Packs** as the learning they engage in over the course of the week will be based on this planned work.
- Pupils should also bring in their **Reading Books, Reading Records, New Waves Maths and English Books and any outstanding Reading Books**.
- Pupils may bring their school bags and lunchboxes.
- 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 may also bring fruit in for Break-Time.
- Pocket sized tissues and a hand sanitizer (If you could write your child’s name on these, this would be extremely helpful).

Homework

All pupils will focus on Reading, Spellings/High Frequency Words, Mental Maths and Athletics activities during this final week in March.

Normal Homework arrangements will resume after the Easter Break.

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 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 excellent Home-School Links and as we are returning to face to face teaching, if you have a query or wish to speak to your child's Teacher, we encourage you to contact our School Secretary. Nicola will arrange for your child's teacher to contact you. Teachers will only be using Seesaw to inform parents of their children's achievements and updated school information. Our school Website will also inform parents of school procedures, celebrations and our pupils' achievements.

Remote, Home and Supervised Learning

It will be wonderful to see all children back in school next week. On the return of all pupils to face to face Teaching and Learning, I would like to pay tribute to our whole school community for the outstanding work that has taken place over the course of this school year and particularly during term two. The children have been fantastic with how they have responded to the challenges of remote learning. I would like to acknowledge the excellent support that the children have received from their parents which has been evident in the quality of the children's learning.

I must thank all our staff for their commitment and dedication to our school community which was demonstrated by every staff member assisting with supervised learning for children of 'key workers' from January to March. We have had 20 of our pupils availing of Supervised Learning recently. As a school we aspire to support our local community and I feel that we fulfilled this aspiration over the course of the last year with the support we provided to key worker families through supervised learning.

I would particularly like to mention our class teachers and acknowledge the excellent quality of learning that they have provided for the children throughout the year and particularly during term two. They adapted very quickly to the challenges of remote learning, as well as supervising children in school and ensured that all children were provided with both online learning through the use of Seesaw alongside paper packs and reading books.

I think we would all have to agree that Seesaw was a brilliant addition to our remote learning provision which enabled teachers to interact with the children, post work, videos, voice recordings, internet links, messages, mark work and provide feedback on the children's learning. This was further extended through the use of Zoom for live sessions for each class on World Book Day, the Primary 4 and 5 pupils celebrated St. Patrick's Day through a live Zoom session and the Primary 6 and 7 pupils participated in two Class Zoom sessions in March.

Healthy Kidz

To acknowledge and reward our pupils for their very hard work during this Term we have organized for Mark Mc Kinley to come into school on Tuesday morning the 23rd of March to provide all our pupils with a complimentary **Healthy Kidz P.E. Session**.

Easter Egg Draw

On Thursday 25th March we will host our Easter Egg Draws. In February we committed to holding a large Easter Egg Draw for the Primary 3 to Primary 7 children who completed an Accelerated Reading Quiz from Monday 22nd February to Friday 5th March. An Easter Egg Draw will also be held in the Foundation Class.

We also committed to having an Easter Prize Draw for all the children in each class who completed an assigned Athletics Activity from Monday 22nd February to Friday 5th March. We will also hold our annual Easter Egg Hunt for each class on Thursday 25th March.

Cash for Schools

I am delighted to announce that we have won the **3rd Prize of £250** in the Hunter's **Cash for Schools** Christmas Competition. Hunter's have confirmed that they received over 1700 Coupon Nominations for our school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents, families and members of the local community who supported St. Teresa's, Tullyherron in this competition.

New Resources

Our Christmas Raffle 2020 raised an outstanding amount of **£1350.00**, during this Term we have purchased 3 new Ipads and 4 Beebots from the money raised from the raffle. These new ICT resources came to a total amount of **£1,000**. We have put the remaining amount of the money raised towards new outdoor play equipment for the Foundation Class, costing a total amount of **£1000**. These new resources will be extremely beneficial to our pupils and it will also ensure their learning continues to be stimulating and enjoyable.

I would like to take this opportunity to very much thank all our parents, families and "Friends of St. Teresa's" who supported our Christmas Raffle.

Easter Holidays

School will close on Friday 26th March (normal times) for the Easter holidays. School will return for all children on Monday 12th April when we can hopefully return to face to face teaching for all children to the end of June.

I must also remind all parents/guardians, that it is vitally important if your child(ren) displays any **symptoms of COVID19** (*continuous cough, high temperature, loss of smell/taste*) they **MUST** not attend school or travel to school on the Bus. Children must also not come to school if a member of their household or someone with whom they have had a close contact is being tested for COVID19. It is preferable that a child misses one or two days rather than a whole group of children or adults having to isolate for 10 days. Parents must contact the school if a member of your household tests positive for COVID19 as this could have implications for our staff, other children and their families. Staff members have also been given the same advice. We have been very fortunate that from the beginning of this school year that none of our Class Bubbles have had to isolate. This has been due to our whole school community working together and displaying excellent vigilance. Hopefully we will all continue to display the same attentiveness as we come out of this third lockdown and look forward to better days. If a child displays COVID19 symptoms in school, we will isolate the child in a designated area (child will be supervised by an adult) and contact parents. You must then follow PHA guidance. Please ensure that your contact details are up to date and you have plans in place to deal with such an event. Hopefully this does not occur but it is better to be prepared.

Please contact the school if you have any further queries regarding these school procedures or the return of Primary 4 - 7 children on Monday 22nd March.

Thank you for your co-operation and support with all these matters, we are looking forward to welcoming all the children back to a safe and happy school environment.

Yours Faithfully,
Sinead Mc Court