



St. Teresa's Primary School
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25th August 2021

Dear Parents,

We very much hope that you all had an enjoyable Summer and we are looking forward to welcoming the children back next Wednesday 1st September. Having reviewed the information guidance from the Department of Education issued on the 18th August 2021, "Covid-19 Guidance to Education Settings" we can now provide you with information in preparation for the new school year.

In order to ensure our school environment is as safe as possible for all pupils, we have assessed our school situation in line with this DE guidance and will implement the following procedures.

Drop off and Collection Routines

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.

Primary 3 – Primary 7 children must be left at the school gate where the children will be met by a member of staff.

Reception, Primary 1 and Primary 2 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 **2.20pm**. Children who travel by car should be collected between **2.25pm – 2.35pm**. Please again adhere to social distancing guidelines at these collection times.

Traffic Management

To ensure the safety of pupils, parents, staff and vehicles, parents and carers can help us achieve this by adhering to the following guidance:

- **Park away from the school entrance.**
- **Do not stop in the middle of the road to drop off or collect your child/children.**
- **Do not exceed the school speed limit of 5mph when either moving off or passing the school during drop off or 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.

Daily Routines

DE guidance has recommended that educational settings are no longer required to operate a system of formal protective bubbles. This will allow us some flexibility for our daily school routines.

Regular hand washing / sanitizing will be encouraged throughout the school day. We would appreciate it if you could continue to promote 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 be available from **Wednesday 1st September 2021** for pupils entitled to Free School meals and other pupils who wish to avail of them (£2.60). Free School Meals / Uniform Grant can be found via the following link:

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

Pupils will now eat their school dinner in the dining room seated in their class groupings. Children will eat their lunch in a nominated classroom in their class groupings. **We request that children do not bring any nut products into school.**

***Note a change to School Uniforms**

We request that pupils wear their **school PE tracksuit** on **Monday, Tuesday and Friday** and their **full School uniform** on **Wednesday and Thursday**. **We would very much appreciate that all pupils wear the appropriate uniform on the allocated day.** These days may change through this school year according to changes to our PE curriculum and timetables. **Please label your child/ren's uniform-sweatshirts, jumpers or cardigans.** A school coat may be bought into school.

School bags, Lunch Boxes and Stationery

- School bags and lunchboxes can be taken into school.
- 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.
- Children must bring in their own pencil case and stationery.

Should you have any reading books from last Term, can you please return these to school as soon as possible.

Payments to School Secretary

In order to maximize the safety of everyone in our school community, 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

This Afterschool will resume on **Monday 6th September 2021** for Reception, Primary 1 and Primary 2 pupils from 1.35pm to 2.35pm and will only continue for the rest of this school year depending on pupil numbers attending. Further information will follow at the end of September.

The cost for Primary 1 and Primary 2 pupils is **£2.50** per day, **£12.50** for the week. The cost for Reception pupils is **£3.00** per day, **£15.00** weekly, as they will remain in school from 1.00pm to 2.35pm.

Sickness Procedure

In line with our safety-first approach, children who are ill or have any Covid 19 symptoms 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.

If you have been on a foreign holiday, please observe the government guidance on self-isolation upon your return.

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

We would like to stress the importance of downloading and checking our school website app regularly as it is our main method of communication. We will be re introducing our Seesaw app for our new classes in the coming weeks.

The above procedures have been formulated from Department of Education guidance issued on the 18th August 2021, "Covid-19 Guidance to Education Settings". We will continue to review the situation and we will endeavour to keep you updated.

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