


Return to School


A Guide for Parents

22nd June 2020





The practices and procedures contained within this document are based on the ‘Northern Ireland Re-opening Schools Guidance: New School Day’ (19th June 2020) and are subject to change as guidance is updated in this currently evolving situation.



[Introduction]

We all have many questions about how school will look when we return for a new school year. As a school, we will continue to follow guidance as issued by the Department of Education for Northern Ireland and the Public Health Agency.

This document is designed to help you, the parents, understand what the current guidance means for life in Duneane Primary School. I have no doubt that further issues will arise as we settle into this 'new normal' and as staff, pupils and parents adapt to this new situation. As a staff we continue to make preparations for our safe return.

This 'Return to School: a Guide for Parents' will be updated as new guidance and advice is received and will be redistributed to our school family.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs. Gail Cuthbertson

Principal

[Social Distancing]

As per guidelines, we will be establishing a 'protective bubble' strategy. Within Duneane there will be two 'protective bubbles', Reception—Primary Three and Primary Four—Primary Seven.

It is envisaged that there may be times when these bubbles come side by side, however the following social distancing measures will be put into practice at all times within our school:

- * 2m between adults and children and adults with adults
- * 1m between children

Please discuss these practices with your child over the summer months.

In order to protect these 'bubbles' no parents or visitors will be allowed into classrooms.

In school we will call it 'our own bubble'. We don't want to burst anyone else's bubble, so we have to keep our distance.

[The School Day]

In following the guidelines, all of our pupils will be able to attend school, 5 days per week. Remote learning will be provided for pupils who are unable to attend school because they are shielding or because they have been advised not to attend.

8:00—8:45: Breakfast Club. Attendance must be pre-booked 24 hours in advance

8:45—9:00: School Drop off. Pupils proceed to their own classrooms as normal

12 noon: Reception & P1 pupils go home (option to remain in school over lunch. P1 September only)

12 noon—12:45: Lunch

1:55—2:05: School Finishes for all Pupils. P1-3 will be brought to the gate first.

Due to the increased cleaning of resources and facilities we have taken the decision to close at 2 p.m. everyday. No after-school care will be available.

Please use both the main and pedestrian gates to access the school site.

[Pupil Belongings]

The current advice is to limit belongings travelling between home and school. School bags will not be permitted. Home learning activities will be shared through Google Classroom and Class DoJo.

As per our usual practice, we would ask that every pupil brings the following to school on their first day, using a disposable bag, if required:

- * Well stocked pencil case: pencils, rubber, pencil sharpener (P2-7)
- * Pritt Stick – 40g
- * 30cm ruler (P4-7)
- * PE trainers, to be kept in school (P1-3)
- * Wellington Boots, to be kept in school (Reception - P3)
- * PE Kit, to be kept in school (P4-7)
- * Box of Tissues
- * Water Bottle (for Classroom use)

Please clearly label all belongings with your child's name.

[Hygiene]

Handwashing using soap and water will be regular for both staff and pupils throughout the day and specifically at the following times:

- * Upon arrival
- * Before eating
- * After eating
- * After playing outside
- * Before leaving
- * After sneezing or coughing

Pupils in Reception—Primary 3 will be supervised while washing their hands. Hand sanitiser will also be available in the school office for visitors.

Pupils will be discouraged from touching their eyes, face, nose and mouth. They will be encouraged to cough or sneeze into a tissue or their elbow. Please support this at home by establishing the same routine.



[Cleaning]

As far as possible we will be removing items from our classrooms that are hard to clean.

Frequently touched surfaces e.g. door handles, will be cleaned throughout the school day, including:

- * Break time
- * Lunch time

Resources that have been used will also be cleaned at the end of each school day. Some hard to clean resources will be quarantined for 1 week.

As far as possible, pupils will be allocated individual resources to avoid sharing or cross-contamination. These will include iPads and scissors.

[Test, Trace and Protect]

All pupils are expected to follow the requirements of the Department of Health's 'Test, Trace and Protect' programme. **No pupil should attend school if they exhibit any symptoms associated with COVID-19.** Please follow the following measures:

- * The whole household should self-isolate if one member has come into contact with someone who has since been confirmed to have acquired COVID-19. Obtain a test if symptoms develop
- * Only return to school if negative results for the pupils' whole household have occurred and if they have not had a temperature for 48 hours
- * Follow PHA guidance should a positive test result occur

Should any pupil develop symptoms while in school they will be placed in supervised self-isolation and their parent/guardian will be asked to collect them.

[School Uniform]

- * We will be increasing the amount of outdoor learning within our school and would ask that pupils wear jogging bottoms on a daily basis. Trainers can be worn instead of school shoes. Coats should also be brought to school every day.
- * In following guidelines, children are not permitted to wear a face mask while in school
- * COVID-19 can remain on fabrics for some time and we would encourage all pupils to wear fresh, clean clothes every day. We would ask that pupils continue to wear school polo shirts and jumpers, however we understand that if clothes are being cleaned on a daily basis this may prove difficult.
- * Indoor spaces will be kept well ventilated so please ensure your child has a jumper with them
- * All long hair should be securely tied back. Only stud earrings are permitted. No jewellery is permitted, except for watches.

[Changes in Practices]

We will be making some changes to our practices to help reduce risk to staff. These will include:

- * A reduction in communications via paper. Instead these will be emailed to parents and uploaded onto the school website.
- * Permission slips will be replaced by Google Forms, when possible
- * Money should be transferred to the school bank account or sent into school in a school envelope, clearly labelled with the amount and reason.