

Dear Parents

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS LETTER MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE FOLLOWING THE RESTART GUIDANCE BEING ISSUED BY PETER WEIR THIS WEEK.

I hope that you are having a safe and relaxing summer break in these very difficult times. I have been reluctant to issue guidance to parents until I knew for definite what was happening but I understand that not knowing the possible reopening options is also causing anxiety especially for those parents who need to organise child care. We have been working over the past few months to put in place plans and procedures and health and safety measures to ensure as many children as possible are able to return to school safely in September but **until we receive guidance from the Department of Education and the Chief Medical Officer I will be unable to say for definite whether all children will be returning to school full time or whether children will be returning on a part time basis using a blended approach, where children will be educated through a mixture of remote learning at home and face to face teaching in school.**

Our preferred option is for all children to return full time but if this is not possible, having looked at the different options, we have decided that the best option for the pupils and the most child centred approach, would be for them to come into school for a half day four times a week.

- **Pupils would come to school Tuesday to Friday.**
- **Group A would come to school from 9.00-11.30 and group B would be in school from 12.30 to 3.00. We would ensure, where possible, that siblings were in school at the same time. Unfortunately, we will be unable to change groups once they have been arranged as we need to keep numbers small.**
- **We will inform you which group your child will be in, if this is the route we have to go down, on the 18th August.**

This child centred option would ensure children have face to face lessons with their own teacher 4 times a week, they would be taught in smaller groups allowing for more intense teaching and there would be less online learning. We are hoping to utilise all available staff and space within the school to bring as many children as possible into school for full days, though this may mean that your child may have to spend part of their day with another member of staff. We will provide further information on this.

I wish that I could be more definite but unfortunately, we will have to wait on the guidance from the Department of Education to inform you which arrangements will in place for September. This information should be released shortly and I will inform parents of any changes immediately. I sincerely hope that all children can return safely full time. We know that this has been a very difficult time for you and your child and whilst some children are looking forward to starting school again others are very anxious and worried. Please be assured that myself and my staff are prepared for this and we will work together to ensure that your child gets the care, comfort, support and reassurance they need to return to school.

Restart details

Restart for all P7 children

24th August 9.00am-12.00pm.

25th August-27th August 9.00am-2.00pm.

28th August- children will not be in school

They should bring a packed lunch.

School will officially restart for pupils in P2-P7 on the 1st September (information on whether this is to be full time or part time to follow.)

Parents of our new P1 pupils will receive a letter week commencing 17th August which will state the day of the Induction Meeting, the date for you and your child to come to class to meet the teacher and date for when your child will be starting school

Parents are reminded that, as a matter of urgency, they should apply for free school meals. If there is another lock down and parents are paid the subsidy, you will only receive this if you are on the Free School Meals Register.

Children will return to school wearing their school uniform and PE uniform.

Children will be unable to bring schoolbags or pencil cases to school.

We will send additional information regarding Parent Meetings and drop off and collection arrangements etc in the next few weeks.

Thank you

Mrs F Boyd

Principal