



PORTSTEWART PRIMARY SCHOOL and NURSERY UNIT



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Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope that you and your extended family have had a lovely Summer break and that everyone is looking forward to the children returning back to school next week.

Please find enclosed within this newsletter all the information you need to know in relation to the re-opening of school. As you will be aware, we had been waiting for The Department of Education to revise its plans for schools and I am delighted to say that schools have now received this guidance.

The guidance has been well publicised through the media and social media platforms...and this always leads to a little confusion. So, please take time to read this newsletter carefully as it will clearly outline the steps we will take in Portstewart Primary and Nursery Unit in order to ensure that we mitigate the risk of the spread of Covid 19 as we move forward.

We as a school community wish to welcome Miss L McAfee as our new Vice Principal and Primary 6/7 teacher. Miss McAfee is an experienced teacher who has fulfilled many roles in her teaching career to date.

I, along with the entire staff team, are really looking forward to welcoming children back into school next week. During next week, there will be plenty of staff members available around the school entrance to point children, parents and carers in the right direction in terms of what doors children need to use to come into school. Many thanks for your continued support. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

See you all next week,

Mrs K Taylor

Principal

PARENT UPDATE ON BACK TO SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS

(Please retain for information)

Start and finish times

We recognise the difficulties that staggered start and finishing times cause with families with more than one child at school. Therefore, based on the new guidance we will open all of the external doors at 8.45am and pupils will be supervised in their own classroom until school starts. Lessons will begin at 8.55am.

Monday 30th August is a Bank Holiday and the school is closed.

School restarts on Tuesday 31st August for all pupils in Primary 1 - Primary 7. (Nursery pupils have already been given their starting date and times.)

On Tuesday 31st August all external doors will open at 8.45am and pupils will go directly to their classroom. Each class will use their own designated door that leads to their classroom. School will start at 8.55am and end at 12 noon for all pupils. There will be no lunch served on Tuesday 31st August so pupils just need to bring a snack with them.

On Wednesday 1st September, Thursday 2nd September and Friday 3rd September all classes finish at 2pm and school dinners will be served. From Monday 6th September full time learning resumes.

The school timings for 2021/22 are outlined below:

8.45am - Doors open - Pupils should arrive and make their way to classroom where they will be supervised by their teacher. All children can arrive into school between 8.45am and 8.55am.

8.55am - Lessons begin

2.00pm - Home time for all pupils in P1, P2 and P3 (P3 stay to 3pm on Thursdays only from Thursday 9th September)

3.00pm - Home time for P4, P5, P6 and P7

Please note that Nursery pupils have already received detailed information about staggered start times.

Class Bubbles

You may have heard a lot of information about the use of bubbles on the news and via social media. The Department of Education guidance still places a duty on schools to ensure, in the event of a pupil testing positive, that we can accurately contact trace close contacts. Without the partial use of bubbles inside the school building it would be almost impossible for us to do this. Therefore, during the school day pupils will remain in their classroom bubble but during outdoor playtime they will have opportunity to mix with pupils from another class bubble.

Hand Hygiene

Children will be required to wash or sanitise their hands upon arrival to school, and will either wash their hands or sanitise their hands at regular intervals throughout the school day. Please speak to your children about good hand hygiene at home prior to their return to school. You are welcome to send your child into school with their own small bottle of hand sanitiser if you wish. Tissues will be available in all classrooms, however it may be handy for your child to have their own small packet of tissues.

School Uniform

Children should wear their full school uniform when they return to school, this includes black school shoes (not trainers).

School Bags

As already communicated to parents and carers school bags will be permitted this academic year. The Department of Education has advised that children may bring school bags and pencil cases into school.

Water Bottles

Water bottles may travel to and from school. They will remain in your child's classroom throughout the day. Water bottles can be refilled during the school day.

P.E Uniform

On days that your child has PE lessons pupils should come to school wearing their school jumper and blue polo shirt and in September they should wear plain navy, black or grey tracksuit bottoms and trainers.

For the month of September pupils can wear either navy, black or grey tracksuit bottoms for PE days. From Friday 1st October we would request that all pupils wear **plain navy tracksuit bottoms for PE days** so that we can make this the formal PE uniform for Portstewart Primary School. This will give time for parents/carers to purchase plain navy tracksuit bottoms (no marks, lines or logos please).

We will inform parents of what day your child is having PE in due course. Initially all pupils should wear full school uniform to school each day and then we will introduce the PE uniform for PE days. We received very positive feedback from both pupils and parents last year that this worked very well.

School Lunches (see menu at the back of the newsletter)

School lunches will begin on Wednesday 1st September. Lunches will cost £2.60 per day for primary pupils and £2.50 per day for Nursery pupils. ParentPay will be our preferred method of making payments to school. New pupils to our school will receive logon details to ParentPay within the first week. Please note that parents whose child is entitled to free school meals should login to ParentPay and indicate whether their child(ren) will be taking a free school meal.

Packed lunches will be supplied for children for whom we have been informed by the Education Authority that they have an entitlement to Free School Meals.

This academic year we plan to have two sittings for dinner and during outdoor playtime pupils will have opportunity to mix with pupils from another class bubble. This reflects the guidance around lower risks associated with activities taking place outdoors and the use of partial bubbles.

Parents / Carers entering the school building

In line with the guidance parents and carers are discouraged from entering the school buildings as a means of preventing spread of the virus. We will make an exception to this for the first week for our new Nursery pupils or any new pupil who is starting our school for the first time.

Any parent who wishes to enter the school building to speak to a member of staff should book an appointment by contacting the office in advance. Parents who come into the school building must fill in a COVID track and trace form and wear a face covering when attending a prearranged appointment (unless they are except from doing so).

Parents should not congregate outside the school building but should maintain the advised social distancing measurement away from other parents or adults.

If it is necessary to contact a member of staff during the school day this should be done by contacting the school office, providing a reason for your call and the appropriate member of staff will get back to you as soon as practically possible. Please use this method as opposed to a Seesaw message or Facebook message as teachers are busy teaching and are unable to read or respond to messages.

Unwell Children

It is very important that parents keep their children home from school when they are experiencing any symptom of the Coronavirus i.e. a new continuous cough, high temperature or loss of taste and smell. Children who are ill at all should not be sent to school. Parents will be contacted if a child displays any Covid symptoms during the school day. These children will be isolated until they are collected from school. This is to give our staff and parents confidence that our school is a safe and healthy place to learn and work, especially during current restrictions.

Entrance and exit points for pupils

Mrs Rankin's Primary 7 class: enter via door beside the office in the Junior Playground

8.45am - Doors open

8.55am - Lessons begin

3.00pm - Normal home time (from 6th Sept)

*Please note home times for the first week:

12 noon on Tuesday 31st August

2pm on Wednesday 1st September

2pm on Thursday 2nd September

2pm on Friday 3rd September



Miss McAfee's Primary 6/7 class: enter via main front door

8.45am - Doors open

8.55am - Lessons begin

3.00pm - Normal home time (from 6th Sept)

*Please note home times for the first week:

12 noon on Tuesday 31st August

2pm on Wednesday 1st September

2pm on Thursday 2nd September

2pm on Friday 3rd September



Mrs Baillie/Miss Blackford's Primary 6 class: enter via Key Stage 2 playground door

8.45am - Doors open

8.55am - Lessons begin

3.00pm - Normal home time (from 6th Sept)

*Please note home times for the first week:

12 noon on Tuesday 31st August

2pm on Wednesday 1st September

2pm on Thursday 2nd September

2pm on Friday 3rd September



Mr Kennedy's Primary 5 class: enter via door near polytunnel outside P5 classroom

8.45am - Doors open

8.55am - Lessons begin

3.00pm - Normal home time (from 6th Sept)

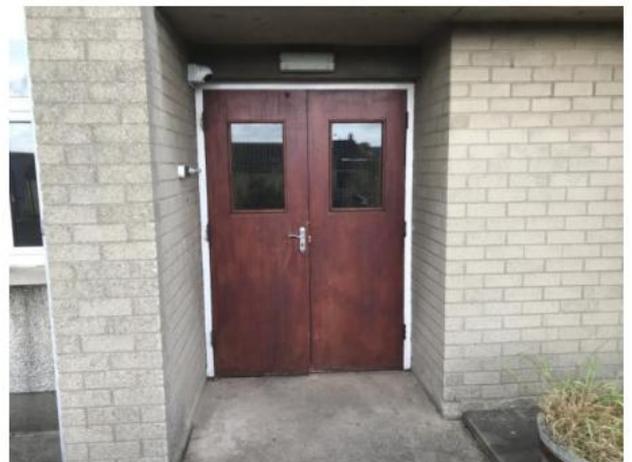
*Please note home times for the first week:

12 noon on Tuesday 31st August

2pm on Wednesday 1st September

2pm on Thursday 2nd September

2pm on Friday 3rd September



Ms Murray/Mrs Barr's Primary 4 class: enter via canteen door in the Junior playground

8.45am - Doors open

8.55am - Lessons begin

3.00pm - Normal home time (from 6th Sept)

*Please note home times for the first week:

12 noon on Tuesday 31st August

2pm on Wednesday 1st September

2pm on Thursday 2nd September

2pm on Friday 3rd September



Miss McCurdy's Primary 3/4 class: enter via the fire doors outside the P3 classroom

8.45am - Doors open

8.55am - Lessons begin

2.00pm - Normal home time for P3 pupils
(Thursdays 3pm)

3.00pm - Normal home time for P4 pupils

*Please note home times for the first week:

12 noon on Tuesday 31st August

2pm on Wednesday 1st September

2pm on Thursday 2nd September

2pm on Friday 3rd September



Miss Gilmore's Primary 2 class: enter via the Queenora entrance

8.45am - Doors open

8.55am - Lessons begin

2.00pm - Normal home time

*Please note home times for the first week:

12 noon on Tuesday 31st August

2pm on Wednesday 1st September

2pm on Thursday 2nd September

2pm on Friday 3rd September



Mrs Simpson's Primary 1 class: enter via the Junior playground door near the P1 classroom

8.45am - Doors open

8.55am - Lessons begin

2.00pm - Normal home time (from 6th Sept)

*Please note home times for the first week:

12 noon on Tuesday 31st August

1.15pm on Wednesday 1st September

1.15pm on Thursday 2nd September

1.15pm on Friday 3rd September



Nursery pupils should enter via the main Nursery front door and follow times already given in the Nursery starting booklet.

PRIMARY MENU 2021

Sep-21

school food

Try Something New today
www.schoolfoodni.com

Bread, salad, fruit, yoghurt, milk and water are available daily.

If you require any additional information on allergens or special diet please contact the school in the first instance



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week beginning 30th August 2021	School closed for Bank Holiday	No school dinners - half day	Chicken Curry Steamed Rice Naan Bread Carrot Sticks Chocolate Brownie Orange wedges	Roast beef Stuffing Carrots, Broccoli, Mashed Potato Roast Potato with Gravy Fresh Fruit Ice Cream Tub	Chicken Bites, Baked Beans, Coleslaw Chips/ Homemade Chilli Potato Skins Wholemeal Bread Crackers & Cut Grapes
Week beginning 6th Sept 2021	Pasta Bolognese, Carrot Carrot Sticks Crusty Bread Pouring Yoghurt & Fruit	Fish Fingers Baked Beans Mashed Potatoes Wholemeal Bread Chocolate & Pear Sponge with Custard	Steak Burger in Bap Coleslaw Salad Herby Cubed Potatoes Fresh Strawberry Shortcake Biscuit	Roast Turkey Stuffing Green Beans, Diced Carrots Mashed Potato Roast Potato Gravy Fresh Yoghurt & Oranges	Homemade Pizza Topped with Tomato, Chicken & Cheese Tossed Salad, Chips/Baked Potato Fruit & Frozen Yoghurt
Week beginning 13th Sept 2021	Lasagne, Sweetcorn, Side Salad with Wheaten Bread Fresh Strawberry Swiss Roll Custard	Oven Baked Breaded Whiting, Baked Beans, Mashed Potatoes Crusty Bread Fruit Mix & Fresh Yoghurt	Chicken Curry, Boiled Rice & Carrot Sticks & Naan Bread Chocolate Cookie, Fruit Milkshake	Roast Beef Stuffing Cabbage, Carrots Mashed Potato Roast Potato Gravy Sweet Rice & Pears	Hot Dog Sweetcorn Side Salad Chips /Potato Honeydew Melon Yoghurt
Week beginning 20th Sept 2021	Fish Fingers, Beans & Mashed Potatoes Crusty Bread Fresh Melon Wedge 7 Frozen Yoghurt	Chicken Curry with Boiled Rice, Carrots Sticks & Naan Bread Shortbread Biscuit & Custard	Buffet Special Lunch Ham/Cheese/Tuna Selection of sandwiches Pizza Wheel Cocktail Sausages Carrot Sticks Fruit Muffin & Milkshake	Roast Pork Stuffing Turnip, Broccoli Mashed Potato Dry Roasted Potato Gravy Crackers, Cheese & Grapes	Steak Burger in bap Coleslaw, Chips / Homemade Crunchy Paprika Wedges Fresh Fruit Mix & Yoghurt

Try Something New today