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### Newsletter - September 2020

Welcome back to another school year. We are all so happy and grateful to be back at school. The children are all looking great, are in great form and are delighted to be back at school. They have adapted so well to all the changes we have had to make and are, as usual, a pleasure to work with. We are so proud of them all. Many thanks to all of you, our parents as well, who have supported us and enabled us to get back to this "new normal". Please God it will be a safe and happy year for us all!

#### School closings this term.

The school will be closed on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September for staff training.

The school will be closed on 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup>, October and Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November for the Halloween Break.



A warm welcome to all our new Year One pupils who have made a great start to P.1: They are all superstars, coming into school every morning by themselves and getting to it straight away. Well Done

Charlie, Eloise ,Aoife B, Niall ,Alanna ,Sam, Sophie, Faolan, Kila, Aoibheann, Anna, Maria, Casper, Darragh, Aoife M, Shane, Aoife Mc, Ella, Sianna, Mia, Clara, Michael, Cahir, Aibrean and Eve.

P.1 enjoying our new outdoor area!!





## COVID-19

All information related to COVID-19 is available on the school website.

Please do not send your child to school if:

- They have a temperature.
- A new continuous cough.
- They lose their sense of taste and smell.

Please see the attached What If document, this has been updated in line with the most recent information from DENI and PHA.

## Home/School Communication

As you know schools have been told not to send home items from school and parents have been asked not to send anything into the school. However, there may be occasions when we send home essential items from school i.e reading books, forms to be filled in etc. Please follow PHA advice and quarantine such items for 72 hrs before use. If you have items to be returned to the school, please ask children to put them in the box at each classroom door. Our school newsletter and updates will all be available on the school website. If we need to get a message to you quickly we will send text messages. Please contact the school if you are not receiving messages. If you need to contact us, please don't hesitate to phone or contact us via email. All details are at the top of this newsletter.

## New mobiles

Our new modular building has arrived on site and should be ready soon for the children to move into. We are so excited; they will be a great addition to the school. Our Year 5/6/7 children are looking forward to moving into them. They will be equipped with modern technology, new SMART interactive whiteboards and new computers etc.



### **Dinners**

Dinners will cost £2.60 per day from 2nd September. Dinner money must be paid at the beginning of the school week in line with EA Western Policy. The menu is on the school website, please feel free to choose whichever days suit your children. Please place dinner money in an envelope with your child's name and class on it outlining the days on which dinner will be taken. Children will be taking their meals in their class bubbles this year and so far it is working really well. Children are very welcome to bring their own healthy packed lunch with them to school also. Do check if you are entitled to free school meals as the criteria changed last year, information can be accessed at [www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants](http://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants).

### **Snack**

Children should bring a healthy snack to school for break in a lunchbox which can be wiped.

### **Water**

Children should bring a bottle of water to school each day, to drink throughout the day. A sport type lid is advisable.

### **Data Collection**

Every child has received a data collection form. Please check the information on the form and make any changes which are necessary, sign and return to school. It is essential that you include an email address. Thanks.

### **Uniform**

The children all look so lovely and smart in their uniforms. Tracksuit bottoms should only be worn on P.E days. Please put your child's name on all items of clothing so that they can be returned to them if lost.

### **Attendance**

Children must attend school every day unless they are ill. Please let us know why your child is off school either via a telephone call or a note to the teacher. This is important for DENI records. Do please try to keep medical and dental appointments outside of school hours where possible. Thanks.

### P.E

P.E will take place on Mondays so all children can wear in their P.E uniform into school every Monday.

### Child Protection

All of our policy documents are available on our school website. Our Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Ingram and our Deputy Designated teacher is Mrs Devine. If you have a concern or worry about your own or indeed any child, please contact us.

### Flu Vaccine

The school nurse will be coming on 6<sup>th</sup> October to deliver the Flu vaccine to the children in the school. Forms have been sent home to be signed. Please return by Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Sep as the school nurse will be collecting them. Thanks.

### Homework

We have given the children some time to settle back into school life and really appreciate that they are tired after a long day at school, to this end we are not giving any homework for the month of September. We will gradually reintroduce homework to all classes during October.

### Special Thanks

We'd like to thank Belnaleck Art McMurrough's for allowing us to use their pitches. They are a wonderful resource for us to share and we really appreciate being able to use them every day for our daily mile and P.E. Thanks so much.

### P.1 and 2 Outdoor wear

We would ask all Year 1 and 2 parents to send in wellies and waterproof outdoor wear for children as they will be outside more often for play activities and as you know our weather is not always dry!! These will be kept at school. If you already have an all-in-one weather suit please send it in, if not, they are available online from school trends page at:

<https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/StMarysPrimarySchoolBT922AB/all-weather-suit#>

### St Mary's P.S : Coronavirus:What to do if:

What to do if.....	Action needed	Return to school when....
<i>My child has coronavirus symptoms</i>	<b>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</b> <b>Contact school daily</b> Self-isolate Get a test Inform school immediately about test result	The test comes back negative and they are fever free for 48 hours.
<i>My child tests positive for coronavirus</i>	<b>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</b> Inform the school immediately about the test result <b>Contact school daily</b> Self-isolate for at least <b>10</b> days You will be contacted by Track and Trace Team. Follow PHA guidance	They can return to school after <b>10</b> days even if they have a cough or loss of taste or smell. These symptoms can last for several weeks once infection is gone. If they continue to have a high temperature they should stay at home.
<i>Somebody in my household has coronavirus symptoms</i>	<b>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</b> <b>Contact school daily</b> Household member to get a test. Inform the school immediately about the test result	If test is negative, children can return to school.
<i>Somebody in my household has tested positive with Coronavirus</i>	<b>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</b> Whole family should self-isolate for 14 days. Inform the school immediately about the test result. <b>Contact school daily.</b> You will be contacted by Track and Trace Team. Follow PHA Guidance.	The child has completed <b>14</b> days of self-isolation
<i>The Track and Trace scheme has identified my child as a close contact of somebody with symptoms of confirmed coronavirus</i>	<b>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</b> <b>Contact school daily</b> Self-isolate for <b>14</b> days. Follow PHA Guidance	The child has completed <b>14</b> days of self-isolation
<i>My child has travelled abroad and has to self-isolate as part of the quarantine process</i>	<b>Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed</b> <b>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</b> Contact school daily Self-isolate for 14 days	When the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed.
<i>Staff or pupils in my child's bubble have tested positive</i>	<b>DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL</b> PHA will contact the school. You will be contacted by Track and Trace Team. Follow PHA Guidance.	The child has completed <b>14</b> days of self-isolation

