

Return to school Update



14.8.20

Dear Parents,

We are really looking forward to welcoming all our pupils back to St. Joseph and St. James's P.S. Our staff have been working diligently behind the scenes to prepare our school to ensure the safety of everyone.

What our safe return to school involves:

- Staggered morning drop off and staggered afternoon dismissal times- please see additional document outlining this in detail.
- We ask all parents to exercise social distancing at all times when entering and exiting school grounds.
- Myself alongside a member of staff will meet you each morning at the gated entrance to our playground, where unfortunately for the moment, no parents are permitted to go beyond at this time.
- A number of newly installed hand sanitising stations are placed throughout the school
- Pupils will remain in their class bubbles having staggered break and lunch times and each class is allocated to specific zones on our playground, for both break and lunch time play
- Pupils will notice differences in our school with signage and screens present in each classroom.
- Staff will be wearing visors and in some instances fuller PPE
- Hand sanitising, will include both hand washing and using sanitiser on an hourly basis throughout the day
- All classes will eat their lunch/dinner in their classrooms (dinners will be delivered to each classroom in turn)
- Staggered dismissal will include parents coming to the school gate leading to the playground and your children will be dismissed from their lines. Timings of this are outlined in the induction document posted for you on both our school app and website.
- All pupils are to ensure they do not take school bags, as it is not necessary at this stage. We will update you when schoolbags can be brought back into school.
- Key allocated slots for mental health and wellbeing are timetabled daily to ease and nurture our pupils back into school.

During Induction week, please note there is no transport available and no school dinners during this week only.

Reminder of staggered times for drop off week beginning 1.9.20

(Please see additional document for varied times during Induction week)

8.45a.m. – single pupils from families. 9.00- pupils with siblings. 9.15 – P1 pupils with siblings.

P1/2 – enter playground and proceed to enter school via back door to main school building.

P2/3 - enter playground and proceed to enter via back door to main school building.

P4/5 – enter playground and proceed to enter the mobiles to classroom 1 on the left hand side.

P.6. - enter playground and proceed to enter the mobiles to classroom 2 on the right hand side.

P7 pupils will enter the main building via the main front entrance.

(Please note parents are permitted into the main school building at this time, unless absolutely necessary)

Please note: P1 children have a separate arrangement for morning drop off, as outlined at our parent information evening and at our familiarisation day 20.8.20. Collection for P.1 for the first two weeks of September will be until 12 noon.

Collection each day

All pupils will be exiting via the school playground. Classes will be lined up in zone 2 on the playground, parents are permitted to proceed onto zone 1 of the playground to ensure a safer and more efficient dismissal at the end of our school day

Additional answers to queries you may have:

- School meals and transport will be available from Tuesday 1.9.20
- **There is no school on Bank holiday Monday 31.8.20**
- **Breakfast Club and After school care** – we will update you all in due course, when these will commence. In the meantime for pupils in P1, 2 and 3, if you require Afterschool minding **from 2.00-2.45p.m only**, can you please email cwadsworth679@c2kni.net by indicating the specific days you would like and the number of children from your family. We are only exploring this as a possible option, whilst keeping these age groups in their classroom bubbles from 2.00 - 2.45p.m. Response from you as parents will determine if this is viable financially, as it will involve additional staffing over two rooms. Can you **please email your requests by noon on Friday 28.8.20**
- Written homework will not be issued until the children have settled into the school routine.
- **Uniforms-** We urge you to please alternate between formal and P.E uniforms on an alternate basis.
- **Lunch boxes -** Each pupil will take in their own lunch box clearly labelled with their own small hand sanitiser. Lunch boxes will be kept beside your child.
- **School coats** – please ensure your child if they take in a coat, this is also clearly labelled. Your child’s school coat will remain on the back of their chair in their classroom
- Each class teacher will issue to you all via the home learning tab on the website and on our school app the stationary that will be required for each child.



- Can we please encourage you to consider using this app as recommended by HSC. This will ensure that we are doing all we can within our school and wider community to minimise risk of spread of Covid 19.
- **Can we also state that if you have recently visited one of the countries, where it is now necessary to quarantine for two weeks on return, please do not send your children to school unless the period of quarantine has been completed.**

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you all for your continued and invaluable support at this time, as we commence the **'Restart to School'** programme.

It has been a very unusual start to say the least as your Principal.

I look forward so much to meeting our children and you our parents in person over the coming weeks.

If you require any further clarification on any matters, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours in partnership

C. Wadsworth