

# **Saint Brigid's Primary School**

**Return to School Guide August 2021**



**Learning and Growing Together**

## Returning to school

**26<sup>th</sup> August:** All Primary 7 children will return to school. 9.00am – 12.00 noon for this week. School will also open for a small number of other children to allow for a settling in period. All children should bring a snack and a drink. Drink bottles must be clearly labelled.

**27<sup>th</sup> August:** All Primary 2 children will return to school from 9.00am – 12.00 noon  
All Primary 6 children will return to school from 9.00am -11.50 am

**30<sup>th</sup> August:** Bank Holiday. School is closed.

**31<sup>st</sup> August:** All classes return to school. 9.00am- staggered finish

Class	Finishing Time
P1	11.45 am
P2	12.00 noon
P3	12.00 noon
P3/4	11.45 am
P4	11.45 am
P5	11.50 am
P5/6	11.50 am
P6	11.50 am
P7	12.00 noon

There will be 4 points of exit from school;

- The P1 school entrance for P1
- The main entrance at the office for P2, P4, P7 (Miss Cunningham)
- The lower playground entrance for P3
- The upper playground entrance for P3/4, P5, P5/6, P7(Mr Fitzsimons)

Only one parent/carer is permitted to escort pupils to their designated entrance on the first week, thereafter children from P2- P7 should proceed to their allocated entrance independently.

## Procedures for the Beginning and the End of the School Day

- The school day will start at 9am. **We will not be operating staggered drop off times, but will maintain staggered collection times.** You will be able to drop your child off to school from 8.45am. A member of staff will be on duty each morning at the school gate.
- Children should go straight to their classroom, via their set entrance point.

- Please avoid waiting at the gates and please ensure social distancing where possible.
- The Breakfast Club will be available from 8.00am until 8.45am. The cost is £1.00 per child per day. The Breakfast Club will reopen on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 and must be booked via parent mail.
- It is important that parents remain socially distanced when dropping off or waiting to pick up their child.
- Please do NOT crowd school entrances and exits.
- We ask that you arrive to collect your child and leave the school premises promptly. **Please be mindful that the Rathkeltair Road will be busy so please do not abandon your car or park on the zigzag lines. I would encourage you to use the church car park or park on Saul Road.**

### **Parental/Carer access to school**

As far as possible, parents/carers should not enter the school building (other than by pre-arranged appointment). If you need to pass on information to any member of school staff or to your child, please do so via telephone (02844 612253) or email to [info@stbrigidspdownpatrick.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stbrigidspdownpatrick.ni.sch.uk)

### **School Provision and Routines**

#### **Classroom Layout**

- Children will have designated seating within their classroom, they will not be able to switch seats;
- For the older children the desks will face the front of the room;
- We will do our best to implement social distancing, but please note that government guidance acknowledges that this may not be possible in primary school settings.
- Where social distancing cannot be maintained staff may wear face masks or face shields;
- Where possible windows and doors will be kept open when the building is occupied to aid ventilation;
- Movement around the school will be minimized;
- When the main school hall is being used for groups of children, the children will be managed in their consistent groups with social distancing implemented.
- Where possible outdoor learning will be scheduled for all classes;

#### **Hand-washing**

- Children and staff will wash their hands for the recommended time before leaving home, on entry into school, and at regular intervals throughout the day (including, but not limited to, eating/drinking, using the toilet);
- Paper towels and bins will be provided in toilets, to ensure adequate drying of hands to prevent infection;
- Handwashing routines will be reinforced by all staff;

- Hand sanitiser will be available in all school entrances, every person entering the school MUST sanitise or wash their hands.

### **Tissues and Facial Hygiene**

- Disposable tissues are available in each room for both staff and children to use, although please send your child in with their own packet of tissues;
- Children and staff must sneeze/cough into tissues (never into hands), adhering to the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' guidance;
- Used tissues will be put in a bin immediately after use.

### **Toilets**

- Each class will have designated toilets near their classroom, they will only be permitted to use toilets within their own zone;
- Staff will ensure that toilets do not become over-crowded, by limiting the number of children who can use the toilet facilities at any one time.

### **Cleaning**

- In addition to the daily cleaning which takes place on site, a cleaning schedule will be implemented for more frequent cleaning and disinfecting throughout the day for high-touch areas, including door handles, light switches, toilet flushes, and taps, as well as toys, books, desks and chairs;
- Bins for tissues and other rubbish are emptied throughout the day.

### **Break Times and Outdoor Play**

- Children will be outdoors during break and play times – weather permitting;
- Break Times and lunch times will be staggered to avoid overcrowding in the playgrounds. The grounds will be divided up into zones for multi-use purposes.

### **Lunch times**

- Classes P2-P7 will eat their lunch/dinner in the dining hall. They will sit in their consistent groups and social distancing will be implemented.
- You may send your child to school with their own packed lunch, this can be sent in a lunch box or disposable bag;
- Water fountains in school will not be available for use. Please send in enough water for your child to last a full day. These precautions will prevent any possible contamination.

### **Uniform**

- Children will be required to wear full school uniform with plain black shoes. Trainers should only be worn with the regulation PE uniform;
- A clean uniform should be worn as often as practically possible;

- Long hair needs to be tied back to reduce the number of times children touch their face during the day;
- On the days the children have PE they may wear their PE uniform to school. Can we please remind you not to send the children in 'branded leggings' tracksuit bottoms or non- regulation clothing. **Only the agreed PE uniform or full school uniform may be worn in school.**

### **Medication**

- Return any required medication which you usually have in school (such as inhalers) in a named bag/envelope. Please make sure the right medication is in school and it is in date for your child. If unsure, please contact Mrs Moore in the office.

### **Belongings**

- The children can bring in a small schoolbag. All belongings should be clearly labelled to avoid expensive jumpers, coats and PE tops getting lost.

### **Homework**

- Homework will be a combination of hard copies and online learning.

### **S'Cool Club & Extended School**

- The S'Cool Club will operate from 1<sup>st</sup> September. After school activities will begin week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> September. All places must be booked in advance.

### **Illness in School**

- Staff and children should not attend if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household;
- All members of the school, including staff and pupils, will be continually supported to understand the symptoms to look for. The symptoms of COVID-19 can be found on the PHA website tab);
- Should someone become symptomatic at school we will follow the DE guidance.

### **Attendance**

- Once back at school, contact the school office to let us know if your child is absent due to sickness.
- We are trying to mitigate against the spread of the virus and would ask that families on returning from holiday would adhere to quarantine restrictions when necessary to help us keep everyone safe in our school community.

**IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE ARE INFORMED IMMEDIATELY OF ANY COVID-19 SYMPTOMS YOUR CHILD MAY HAVE.**

I hope you find this Return to School Guide helpful. If, after reading it, you still have questions, worries or concerns, then please do contact me via the [info@stbrigidsp.downpatrick.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stbrigidsp.downpatrick.ni.sch.uk) address and I will do my very best to help you.