3rd August 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all keeping well and that everyone has been enjoying their holidays. I appreciate fully how concerned you may feel with so much going on as I know it has been a very difficult time for us all. As we edge closer to September I want to try and provide as much clarity and as many answers as possible for you. We have been working hard on preparing our school and we are very excited at welcoming our pupils back through our doors. So here are our plans and hopefully they will give you some reassurance for the forthcoming weeks.

**School dates:**

* **School restarts on Monday 24th August for pupils in P2-P7.** Currently only next year’s P7s are due to return in NI, but I wish to see all pupils back on Monday 24th to make a positive start to the new year.
* **Primary 1 children.** As we have had no further guidance to date on induction days, we plan to bring Primary 1 children into school in groups of 5 each day from Monday 24th August –Thursday 27th August from 9:30am – 10:30am. P1 Parents will be notified when final plans are in place.
* **All children will attend school full time beginning 1st September.** We have made use of the wonderful space we have in our school. If social distancing is still in place come September then we can still accommodate everyone, every day. The best place for our children is in school. I will do whatever it takes to make sure all our pupils have room to learn.
* **Confirmation Practice** will be on **Wednesday 26th August** at 1:15 pm. **School will end at 2:00pm on this day.**
* **P7 Leavers –** after confirmation practice P7 children will return to Foley for a leavers celebration.
* **Confirmation** will be on the **Friday 28th of August** at 2:00pm. **School will end at 12pm on this day.**
* **Holy Communion** will be on **Saturday 5th September.**

**Social Distancing:**

Currently there is social distancing in place. Should this still be in place come the last week in August and early September then our school will encourage and promote this. We will have staggered breaks, lunches, arrivals and finishes to accommodate this, which we will inform you of if necessary closer to the time.

**Visitors:**

I would like to stress that, as it stands, no visitors/parents will be permitted in school without an appointment. This goes against our ethos as we take great pride in being a very warm and welcoming school, particularly to parents, but we need to make adjustments as it currently stands.

**Hygiene Measures:**

All children/staff will be required to wash their hands/use hand sanitisers on entering the school and regularly throughout the day and good personal hygiene practices will be actively encouraged.

Extra cleaning and sanitising will be prioritised, and we will have stringent hygiene measures and reactive strategies in place following guidance from EA and Public Health Agency.

**Curriculum:**

Without doubt, our number 1 concern will be to support pupils emotionally upon their return. We will make every effort to ensure our pupils enjoy school once again, that they feel safe and happy to express themselves and share their thoughts. Learning will follow. Homework may take a different format for the new school year. Remote learning may well become the norm and the school is looking into staff training in August so we can better utilise this way of working.

**School Meals:**

For the first month at least there will be no school dinners served in Foley PS. All lunches should come to school in disposable packaging. Anyone wishing to avail of school meals can still do so, however this will be a sandwich option with a drink, piece of fruit and biscuit provided. This will still cost £2.60.

**School Bags/Pencil Cases**

At this moment in time schools are not allowing school bags into school, we are asking that children bring a pencil case stocked with essential items into school, this will then stay in school until such times that guidance allows school bags to return.

**Clubs:**

For the first term there will be no breakfast club or afterschool clubs. I know how much the children and parents love these clubs so this will be under constant review. When it is safe to recommence clubs, we will.

**School uniform:**

Children are asked to wear a clean school uniform each day. This may alternate between formal uniform and PE uniform. PE uniform can be worn on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**School Day:**

The school day will be a little disjointed for the week of 24th – 28th of August, please pay special attention to dates and times listed above. **Unless otherwise stated every day is a full school day.**

**School begins promptly for everyone at 9:00am. Gates open at 8:45am**

**School will end at 2:00pm for Primary 1&2 each day.**

**School will end at 3:00pm for Primary 3/4/5/6/7 each day.**

From Tuesday the 1st of September it will be school full time for everyone. I hope you enjoy the rest of your holidays.

Kind Regards

Kieran McCrory

Principal