

TOREAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

AUGUST 2021

I hope that you have had a lovely summer break and that everyone is looking forward to the children returning to school. This newsletter will let you know the information you need to know in relation to the re-opening of our school.

The Department of Education has revised its plans for schools. The guidance has been well publicised through the media and social media platforms...and this always leads to a little confusion and, at times, fake news. Every school is different, so, please take time to read this newsletter carefully as it will outline the agreed steps we will take in Toreagh, in order to ensure we continue to mitigate the risk of the spread of Covid 19 as we move forward.

I, along with the entire staff team, are looking forward to welcoming the children back into school and to meeting our new P1 children and their families.

The priority for our school is to minimise as far as possible the risk of infection by COVID-19 for pupils and staff. All decisions have been informed by government guidance and best practice, but it should be noted, that guidance will likely change as transmission of the virus within the community changes. We will continue to update you as appropriate.

The Covid-19 virus is still present and continues to be prevalent in NI. Consequently, this updated plan has been written in line with guidance from the Department of Education. Little has changed from last year. It is important to note that Public Health advice at the time of reopening will prevail over the planning advised in this document



It is important that children are reminded of the significance of hygiene in preventing the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Therefore, we would ask you to keep emphasising the importance of regular and thorough hand washing. When children do return to school, they will be asked to wash their hands repeatedly throughout the school day.

At times hand sanitisers will be used as a support for hand hygiene. This will initially be provided. We are aware that some children are unable to use these, so provision will be made for these children to wash their hands. Children will only use sanitisers when directed by the teachers.



In advance of the school reopening you should also discuss, explain and promote good respiratory hygiene to encourage your children to follow the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach. Children should be discouraged from touching their eyes, face, nose and mouth. They should be shown how to cough or sneeze into their elbow if they don't have a tissue. If they have a tissue they should be shown how to cough or sneeze into it and then dispose of it safely into the nearest bin.

You can help to emphasise these issues and build up a level of routine actions on the part of your children before they return to school. We will be spending a little time in class, at the beginning of each day, reminding the children of these things.

Please note that if your child has any symptoms of having the Covid-19 virus he/she should stay-at-home and your household should isolate in accordance with the latest Public Health advice. Symptoms include: raised temperature, persistent cough, loss of taste and loss of smell.



Before children are brought to school each day, we would ask you to take their temperatures to ensure they are normal. From August the teachers will use non-contact thermometers to check the temperature of children on entry to their classroom, if the temperature is outside the normal range parents/carers will be contacted. This will also be used for any child who appears to be 'off form' during the day. If any child presents as being unwell while in school, they will be brought to an isolation area (shelter) and supervised while their parent/carer is contacted.

If there is a positive case of someone in the school having the Covid-19 virus, we as a school will adhere to and participate in the Department of Health's 'Test, Trace and Protect' strategy. As this requires early identification and isolation of such cases, rapid testing, tracing of close contacts and early, effective and supported isolation to break transmission chains, it will be necessary for the school to have accurate records of everyone who has been in contact with anyone who tests positive. When the school reopens, we will be recording the details of anyone entering the school building.

Class "Bubbles"

- To mitigate the risk of the virus spreading, each class will continue to be organised as a 'protective bubble' where the children in each class will be consistent. Maintaining protective bubbles is a means of decreasing interactions between groups. Teachers will move to different classes in the afternoon.
- Protective bubbles also allows for track and trace to be managed more effectively.
- We will however encourage social distancing when in the corridors, coming into school and leaving school.
- Within each "bubble" children will have designated seating, which must be adhered to.

- Movement in the classroom and around the school will be more restricted than in the past.
- Within the class bubble, children may be seated and work in groups.

Break/Lunch Times

Please do not send any foodstuffs with nuts.

- Children will remain in their bubbles during all break and play times.
- Each bubble will have a designated area for play, times will be staggered to avoid mixing of bubbles and overcrowding.
- Toys and items from home must not be brought to school. Please check coat and trouser pockets, as sometimes a wee toy may be hiding here.
- Free school meals will be provided from Wednesday 1 September. These will be delivered to the classroom. We are yet to be advised whether this will be a packed lunch or meal. Parents whose children are entitled to FSM must remember to apply to the Education Authority for these.
- Please make sure all lunch boxes and water bottles are clearly named and sanitised before coming to school. Please send healthy breaks – fruit or veg if possible.
- Break and lunch times are short so please take this into consideration when packing break and lunch items

Uniform

- Children should wear their school uniform. Please make sure items are clearly named.
- We would encourage you to change and wash uniforms frequently.
- No jewellery please.
- Sunscreen should be applied at home if the weather is warm.
- Long hair needs to be tied back to reduce the number of times children touch their face during the day. Please keep hair decoration to a minimum.
- Coats should be brought when needed. We will not be using the cloakrooms.

Medication

- At this time only life saving medication will be given in school.
- If your child requires medication you must complete the medication form and return it to Mrs Wilson (swilson869@c2kni.net) before your child starts back.
- On the first day back send in any required medication which you usually have in school in a named, clear plastic zipped bag. Just a reminder that it is your responsibility to make sure the right medication is in school and in date for your child.

Belongings

- Please restrict what your child brings to school: packed lunch and break in a sanitised container, coat only if necessary.
- NO schoolbags
- We will be continuing to limit the movement of items from school to home and vice versa.

Contacting School

- If you need to contact Miss Morrow in the morning, please do so between 8.10am and 8.30am. You can of course email Miss Morrow, the class teacher or Mrs Wilson in the office. You can also phone the school office and Mrs Wilson will pass on any messages.
- This year teachers will not be contactable from 8.30am as they will be welcoming the children into class and following our morning sanitising routine.
- Parents/Carers should contact school by phone or email. We will of course get back to you as soon as we can.
- Mrs Wilson will be in school to help you with any administration issues.
- If your circumstances have changed, please complete the data form in the Parent Section of the website, under Useful Forms. Return any completed forms to Mrs Wilson (swilson869@c2kni.net)

Parent/Carer Access to the School Building

- Parents/Carers must not enter the school building, other than by pre-arranged appointment.
- Any pre-arranged appointments will preferably be carried out remotely.
- 'Forgotten' items **should only be delivered** to school during the school day, if prior arrangements have been made with Mrs Wilson in the office.

Other Visitors

- Temperature checks will be carried out on anyone entering the school building.
- Visitors to the premises will be discouraged and non-essential visits will be cancelled or postponed.
- Contractors are to attend by agreement only, after the school has assessed the work to be essential. All required controls must be in place to allow work to be carried out safely.
- Contractors will be asked to provide risk assessments prior to their visits which includes their own controls around infection spread prevention.
- Hand sanitiser will be available in the school entrance for any visitors who must enter school.

Lateness

It is vital that you are on time in the morning and at pick up time. Please follow the timings set out later in this note.

Appointments

- If you can, arrange appointments for after school. If this is not possible, you should phone Mrs Wilson in the office and she will get your child for you. On return you will need to phone the office from the playground and Mrs Wilson will complete the hygiene routine before your child goes to class.

Hygiene/Safety Precautions in School

Indoor Spaces

- Where possible, windows and doors will be kept open when the building is occupied in order to aid ventilation.
- Each bubble will have their own designated classroom and toilets.
- Each class will be allocated their own equipment/resources/toys to keep in each bubble.

Outdoor Spaces

- Opportunities for outdoor learning when appropriate will be scheduled in designated areas.
- Outdoor play equipment will be use and sanitised after each use.

Hand-Washing

- We ask that children and staff wash their hands for the recommended time (20 sec) before leaving home. Hand sanitiser for adults will be available on entry into school. Opportunities for frequent hand washing are scheduled into each daily routine.
- Paper towels will be available in toilets and classrooms, to ensure adequate drying of hands.
- Handwashing posters will be in all toilets and classrooms, to provide a visual reminder about effective handwashing.
- Hand sanitiser will be available at all school entrance points. Every adult entering school MUST sanitise their hands on entry into school.

Tissues and Facial Hygiene

- Disposable tissues are available in each room for both staff and pupils to use.
- Children and staff must try to 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.
- Children will be reminded not to touch their face (eyes, nose, mouth) with hands that are not clean.

Toilets

- Staff will ensure that the toilets do not become over-crowded by limiting the number of children who can use the toilet facilities at any one time.
- Handwashing posters are in all toilet areas to help provide a visual reminder about effective handwashing.

PPE

- PPE will be available in school for staff to use when taking temperatures, administering first aid or dealing with an unwell child.
- Staff will be wearing a face mask/visor at times during the day and especially at drop off or pick up times.
- Parents must wear masks at all times on school grounds.

Cleaning

- In addition to the daily cleaning which takes place, some areas will be cleaned more frequently during the day.
- School will remain fully stocked with liquid anti-bacterial soap, sanitising wipes, hand sanitiser, anti-bacterial spray, paper towels, tissues and PPE equipment.

Fire Safety and Lockdown Procedures

- Normal procedures will be in place for fire drills. Staff will discuss these procedures with pupils.

Attendance

- Once back at school, email or phone the school office (02828260617) to let us know if your child is absent due to sickness.
- We must receive a reason for an absence before a child returns. This can be done via phone call or by emailing Mrs Wilson (swilson869@c2kni.net)

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE ARE INFORMED IMMEDIATELY OF ANY CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS YOUR CHILD OR ANY MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY MAY HAVE.

Illness in School

In the present circumstances, we would ask that you ALWAYS err on the side of caution if your child is ill. If they have been sick or have diarrhoea, they should not attend school until 48 hours after the last time they had the symptoms.

Staff and children should not attend if they have symptoms of COVID-19

- If a staff member or pupil becomes unwell with a new continuous cough, high temperature or loss of taste and/or smell, they and any members of their household within the school setting will be separated from the rest of the bubble and sent home immediately and advised to follow the PHA guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection.
- Just be aware that there are other symptoms associated with Covid-19.

Procedure if a child/ member of staff displays symptoms of COVID-19 in school

- School will contact the parent/carer. Someone on your list of contacts MUST be available to collect your child at short notice.
- A staff member will supervise the child who will be isolated from others and taken to a well-ventilated area. If they need to use the toilet, there is one available for use. Any staff member staying with the child will continue to look after them safely until their parent/carer comes to collect them. PPE equipment is available for staff members.
- A PCR test MUST be taken.
- The staff member who has looked after the child will also be given time to carry out any hygiene measures necessary.
- The N.I. Executive Test, Trace and Protect strategy will provide advice regarding testing and procedures to be followed.
- The children in the bubble will remain in school until the outcome of the test is made known.
- Please let school know asap if a PCR test is positive, so that track and trace procedures can be put in place. Email: lmorrow225@c2kni.net or swilson869@c2kni.net
- Where the test result is negative the child can return to the setting and to the bubble they were in, providing they are well enough and have not had a fever for 48 hours.
- Like last year, we require confirmation of the negative test to be sent to school before your child returns to school. Email: lmorrow225@c2kni.net or swilson869@c2kni.net
- Where the test result is positive, the rest of the bubble, including any staff, will follow context specific guidance provided by PHA. All members of the class bubble MUST isolate until they get a PCR test. If the test is negative the child/ member of staff can return to school. A further PCR test should be taken on the 8th day. Like last term, we require confirmation of the negative tests to be sent to school before your child returns.
- If your child shows any symptoms after following a negative test, a further PCR test should be sought.
- If any of the tests are positive, then PHA advice must be followed with regard to isolation.
- The school must report all positive results to both EANI and PHA

NOTE: a negative lateral flow test will NOT be accepted

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/> <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/>
<https://www.eani.org.uk/>

COVID-19 Related Helplines-

NHS Advice - Northern Ireland now has full access to the **NHS 111** helpline service on COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Callers should **press 1** when they are advised.

Testing - Testing for all symptomatic individuals in Northern Ireland can be booked at www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test If you have questions about a test you've booked or are having trouble booking a test, you can call 119.

General Advice - Advice NI Website <https://www.adviceni.net/coronavirus>

Email: covid19@adviceni.net **Tel:** 0808 802 0020

VERY IMPORTANT

“We are a Nut Aware School”

As a school we need your help to keep all our children safe. We have a child in Primary 1 who has a life threatening allergic reaction to nuts. To keep them as safe as possible, please do not send any food stuffs which contain nuts or traces of nuts eg. cereal bars, Nutella, Kinder Buenos etc

We would also ask that if your child has any cereal containing nuts or Nutella etc at breakfast, that you ensure their hands are washed before coming to school.

Even if your child is not in P1, we need your help with this.

Times for WED 25th – FRI 27th AUGUST

Class	Drop off	Pick Up
P1 (Friday 27 th to 10 th Sept)	8.55am	11.50am
P2 and P3	8.35am	12 noon
P4	8.40am	12.10pm
P5/6	8.40am	12.15pm
P7	8.45am	12.20pm

Families with children in P2-7 may arrive together. For those with children in P1 please keep to the staggered time listed unless advised.

Class teaching will start at 8.50am for P2-7. Parents of P1, P2, P3 and P4 pupils should collect their children from the playground. If you decide to wait outside, your child will be sent out after the playground is cleared. Please stay socially distanced and wear a mask.

From Monday 30th August

Class	Drop off	Pick Up
P1	8.55	11.50am (until 10 th Sept) 1.50pm
P2 and P3	8.35am	1.55pm
P4	8.40am	2.50pm
P5/6	8.40am	2.55pm
P7	8.45am	3.00pm

FRIDAY EARLY PICK UP TIMES P4 - 7

Class	Drop off	Pick Up
P1 (from 17 th Sept)	8.55am	1.50pm
P2 and P3	8.35am	1.55pm
P4	8.40am	2.00pm
P5/6	8.40am	2.05pm
P7	8.45am	2.10pm

Children Entering in the morning

P1, 2 and 4 should enter via the main front door.

P3 should enter via the hall door.

P5/6 and 7 should enter via the outside doors to the classrooms.

There will be someone in the playground to help.

A one-way system is in operation, so if you enter the playground via the pedestrian entrance you must leave via the vehicle entrance.

PLEASE BE ON TIME WHEN DROPPING OFF AND COLLECTING YOUR CHILDREN.

PLEASE DO NOT LINGER AT THE SCHOOL GATE AT DROP OFF AND PICK UP TIMES.

PLEASE DO NOT PARK ACROSS OR TURN IN THE VEHICLE ENTRANCE. The children are often too small for you to see and we do not want any accident.

IF THESE ROUTINES ARE NOT BEING ADHERED TO, IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO CHANGE THE TIMINGS!!

PLEASE ENSURE THAT WHOEVER IS DROPPING OFF AND PICKING UP YOUR CHILD IS AWARE OF THE ROUTINES THAT ARE NOW IN PLACE. This is very important as it avoids awkward situations.

I understand that this is a lot of information. This has been agreed by our staff and Chair of Governors. Please help us to keep everyone as safe as possible.

This year I am teaching full -time and therefore am part of the P7 bubble. However, if I can help in anyway, please do not hesitate to contact me on lmorrow225@c2kni.net or after school on 02828260617.

***Thank you,
See you soon,***

C L Morrow

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

**WE ALL
MUST DO IT
TO GET
THROUGH IT**



STAY SAFE



SAVE LIVES