



St. Mary's Primary School

20 Cloughcor Road, Ballymagorry, Strabane, Co. Tyrone. BT82 0BE.

Telephone No: 028 7184 1237

Principal: Mrs A Devine

Friday 27th August 2021

Welcome back!

I hope you all had a great summer break. We are all looking forward to welcoming our pupils back to school on Wednesday! I would ask that you kindly read the important information below.

RETURN TO SCHOOL 2021

WHEN WILL MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL?

- Children beginning P2-P7 will attend school on Wednesday 1st September. EA Transport/Translink will be operating and our school canteen will be up and running. School dinners cost £2.60.
- Preschool /P1 pupils have already been given a start date by Diane, Pre-school Leader and Ms Coyle, P1 Teacher.

DROPPING OFF AND COLLECTING CHILDREN

- Doors open at 8.45am for pupils in P1-P7. Pre School pupils start at 9.00am-Noon each day. All pupils should be in school each morning no later than 9.00am. Pupils using Translink will be on site approximately 9.05am.
- Please ensure you park carefully outside the school gates – please be kind, as parking is limited!!
- Only exit your vehicle if your child requires assistance (physical difficulties). We are limiting foot fall on site and would ask that your child makes his/her way to class each morning by his/herself like last year.
- **ADULTS EXITING THEIR VEHICLE MUST WEAR A FACECOVERING WHILST ON SCHOOL GROUNDS.**
- When collecting pupils, parents should wait by their cars and staff will see their children out of the school building.

WHERE DOES MY CHILD GO WHEN DROPPING OFF IN THE MORNING?

- All pupils should make their way to their individual classrooms as established last year.

WHAT WILL MY CHILD NEED TO BRING TO SCHOOL?

- Please ensure your child brings in a mid-morning snack and packed lunch if not availing of a canteen meal. All items should be clearly marked with your child's name. Pupils may bring in school bags/lunch bags to schools.
- Pupils will NOT be allowed to share pencils, colouring pencils, rubbers etc so please ensure that your child has a pencil case with pencils, rubbers, colouring pencils for his/her own use only.

FINISHING TIMES

| Class | Finishing time |
|-------|----------------|
| P1 | 2.00pm |
| P2 | 2.00pm |
| P3 | 2.45pm |
| P4 | 2.45pm |
| P5 | 2.50pm |
| P6 | 2.55pm |
| P7 | 3.00pm |

TRANSLINK BUS TIMES AND STOPS

| STRABANE TO ST MARY'S PS CLOUGHCOR | |
|--|-----------------|
| Translink Depot | 8.25am |
| Glen Road | 8.30am |
| Strabane Health Centre Upper Main Street | 8.35am |
| Dock Street | 8.45am |
| Tulacorr | 8.50am |
| Ballymagorry | 8.55am |
| St Mary's PS Cloughcor | 9.05am |
| ST MARY'S PS CLOUGHCOR TO STRABANE | |
| St Mary's PS Cloughcor | 2.00pm / 3.00pm |
| Ballymagorry | 2.05pm / 3.05pm |
| Tulacorr | 2.10pm / 3.10pm |
| Dock Street | 2.15pm / 3.15pm |
| Glen Road | 2.25pm / 3.25pm |

- Cash fare from Dock Street/Glen Road is £1.40. A 10 journey top up card will cost you **£10.50**
- Cash fare from Tulacorr is £1.25. A 10 journey top up card will cost you **£9.00**
- Top up at Translink Bus Depot
- Strabane Health Centre is a ***morning only pick up***
- Please note that pick up/drop off times are approximate

NUT ALLERGY

A growing number of our pupils are presenting with allergies. If your child has a specific allergy, please contact me on 7184 1237 so that I can make canteen/teaching staff aware. **Please ensure pupils do not bring snacks/sandwich spreads with traces or which may contain nuts.**

PE GEAR

Pupils will **wear their PE gear** to school on the day/days of P.E. Class teachers will inform pupils of their PE day/s. Pupils will remain in their PE gear all day. **PUPILS WILL ONLY WEAR HIS/HER P.E. GEAR TO SCHOOL ON A WEDNESDAY IF IT IS THEIR P.E. DAY**

WHAT IF I NEED TO SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF STAFF?

Parents/carers should not enter the school building. Please contact the School Office on 7184 1237 and you will be advised depending on the nature of your need. If you wish to pay a bill, please send money in a clearly marked envelope with your child's name on it. If you wish to pass a message to your child's teacher, you can do this by telephoning the office and Miriam or I will inform the class teacher.

In the event of a concern, parents should speak to their child's teacher, in the first instance. If still not satisfied, the concern can then be directed to Mrs Devine.

Entry to the building will be strictly for pupils, staff and essential visitors/maintenance who have arranged their visit by prior appointment.

WHAT IS THE SCHOOL DOING TO HELP PROTECT MY CHILD?

Here at St Mary's PS Cloughcor, we are following DE Guidance. Risk assessments have been carried out and will be reviewed regularly. We are taking many steps to mitigate risk to our school settings.

- Effective communication with our parents and carers.
- Clear guidance on arrival and departure.
- Enhanced deep cleaning has been carried out over the summer break.
- Deep cleaning will be carried out in the event of an outbreak.

- We will adhere to the PHA Guidance and advice for schools.
- Touch surfaces will be cleaned regularly throughout the day and cleaning materials will be made available in all classrooms.
- Increased handwashing, all staff will wash hands on arrival before and after break and lunch. Good bathroom protocol will be promoted as always.
- Children will remain in protective bubbles with the same adults throughout the day.
- Windows will be opened to increase ventilation.
- Pupils and staff will move outside the building where possible to avoid using corridors and coming into contact with other classes.
- Staff will administer full PPE if administering First Aid or emergency care.

PLEASE NOTE: -

According to DE Guidance

“Primary aged pupils are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering on all public and school transport where they are able to do so”.

If your child is availing of EA/Translink bus services, I would URGE you to ensure that he/she wears a face covering. Thank you!

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT IF YOUR CHILD DISPLAYS ANY SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 THEY MUST ISOLATE AND BOOK A PCR TEST. PUPILS WHO BECOME SYMPTOMATIC IN SCHOOL WILL BE SENT HOME TO ISOLATE AND YOU ARE ASKED TO BOOK A PCR TEST. ON RECEIPT OF A NEGATIVE RESULT THEY CAN RETURN TO SCHOOL.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrea Devine

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



PLEASE NOTE: -

1. Adults and child **WITH SYMPTOMS** or **CLOSE CONTACT** = PCR TEST and **NOT** lateral flow test.
2. Lateral flow tests are for daily use if **NO SYMPTOMS** and **NOT A CLOSE CONTACT**.

As you are aware we have vulnerable children, staff, parents and grandparents who we must continue to protect and keep safe. With this in mind it is **ESSENTIAL** that we follow the guidelines for a school aged CHILD from the PHA.

- If your child is a close contact of a positive case, they **MUST** stay home and have a PCR Test **IMMEDIATEY** (not lateral flow)
- If the test is **POSITIVE**, your child should isolate for 10 days.
- If the test is **NEGATIVE**, your child can return to school but you should then book a 2nd PCR test to take place on day 8 for your school aged child.
- Day 8 is 8 days after the last contact with the positive case if your child does not live with them.
- If your child lives with the positive case, then day 8 is 8 days after the person tested positive or 8 days after the person started showing symptoms (whichever came first).
- Your child can attend school whilst they wait their day 8 test results unless they have started to show COVID symptoms.
- If your child tests **POSITIVE** on day 8 then s/he must now begin to isolate for 10 full days from the date of the positive case. We must be notified immediately as your child will need to be removed from school along with their bubble classmates (who will now be close contacts and will need to follow the advice above).
- Please note if your child is a contact of a positive case but your child has tested positive in the last 90 days then your child does not need to isolate or have a COVID test unless they start to develop symptoms.
- In order to monitor and ensure successful track and tracing, I would be so very grateful if you could keep me informed of all results as it will make this process a lot easier for us to manage. If you are willing, I would be most grateful if you could please send a screenshot of your child's test result via email to adevine835@c2ken.net

Thank you in advance for helping us to keep our school open and a safe place for all. I have also attached a flow chart from PHA with instructions as to what you should do if your child tests positive for Covid-19 or in the event of a family member testing positive in your household.

PLEASE NOTE: -

All school aged children showing COVID symptoms must have a PCR test (not lateral flow) and isolate until the results are back.