 **St. Canice Primary School and Nursery Unit**

 **11 Curragh Road**

 **Dungiven**

 **BT47 4SE**

**Principal:** Mr Ciarán Loane

 18th August 2020

 Dear Year 7 Parents / Guardians,

On Thursday 13th August, the Department of Education sent their School Restart Guidance to all schools. Our school has been working on this guidance to try to develop safe school reopening. Take time to read the detailed information contained below. The new arrangements for the school year are designed to achieve the following outcomes:

* To secure the safe return for all pupils and staff
* To prevent viral spread within the school setting
* To re-establish relationships and routines throughout the school community
* To secure consistent, sustained and uninterrupted education for all pupils within the school setting and throughout the entire school year.

To achieve these aims, we need the full support of everyone. We request that everyone recognises that the new arrangements are in place for the safety, well - being and development of all.

**The key arrangements in place to secure the above outcomes are outlined below:**

1. No child should attend school if they have any Covid symptoms at all.
2. ONLY pupils are permitted to enter the school grounds.

No parent (except for Nursery and P1 parents) should enter the school grounds.

All parents will be required to remain outside the school building, unless specifically requested to enter or an appointment has been arranged.

1. Year groups will enter/exit the school grounds and the school building via different entrance points.
2. Enhanced handwashing and hand sanitation will take place for all school users during the school day.
3. Each class will not be in contact with other classes so as to protect the class bubble.
4. Break time and lunchtime play will take place in a designated area for each class.
5. Dinners will be taken in the canteen and lunches will be taken in the classroom.
6. Initially school staff will collect and deliver their class from designated areas in the school playgrounds.
7. Social distancing will be maximised throughout the school day where possible.
8. Pupils should not bring school bags to school.
9. All lunches/breaks should be sent to school in clearly labelled disposable packaging each day, including drinks bottles .
10. School uniforms can be worn as normal but I would encourage children to change clothes on a daily basis or as often as is practical.

***These protocols are all designed to minimise contamination at every opportunity. These arrangements may change as things develop.***

**Key Dates**

* **Monday 24 August** Year 7 will start school. Year 7 will be in school Monday 24th - Friday 28th. Class begins at 9.15a.m. and pupils will go home at 2.00p.m. Y7 children have to bring a packed lunch in a disposable bag when at school on the week of the 24th August.
* **Monday 31st August** School is closed for Bank Holiday.
* **Tuesday 1 September** Year 7 will return to school. Class begins at 9.15p.m. and pupils will go home at 3p.m.

**Key Information for Monday 24th – Friday 28th August**

* Children should wear their full, clean school uniform to school every day.
* Children need to bring a coat for break time, lunchtime and outdoor learning.
* Children do not need school bags or pencil cases at this time. This will be reviewed again later in September. We will supply pencils, rubbers and sharpeners for each child which will be kept in school. If a child wishes to bring their own pencil case to school, it should be labelled and this pencil case will remain in school.
* Break times and lunchtimes will be staggered throughout the day.
* Times for all children to wash their hands will be timetabled throughout the day.
* The school canteen is available for free school meals and paid dinners on the 1st September.
* Pupils may bring an individual water bottle
* Year 7 pupils should enter the school grounds using **GATE 3**

(see **GATE** photographs below)

**School Transport**

School buses and taxis will be running as normal beginning on Tuesday 1st September. More information about applying for school transport is through this link - [https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/home-to-school-transport/how-to-apply-for- transport-assistance-for-my-child](https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/home-to-school-transport/how-to-apply-for-transport-assistance-for-my-child)

It is strongly recommended that all pupils of all ages should wear a face covering on all buses, trains or taxis for the journey to school where it is appropriate for them to do so and they are able to handle them as directed.

**Free School Meals**

If you need to find out if you are eligible for a grant for school uniform, please tap on this link for more information. [https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school- meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants](https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants)

**School uniform grant**

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**Do not send your child to school if your child or anyone you live with has any of the following symptoms:**

* A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
* A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
* A loss of or change in sense of smell or taste. If your child or anyone in your household has any of the symptoms above you should get a test for Covid-19.
* Details on how to get a test can be found by clicking [here.](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19)
* If a child displays symptoms of Covid19 at school we will contact their parents/ carers immediately to come and collect them.
* The school will support children and their families at all times.

You will be informed of any changes if new advice is released by the Department of Education.

I appreciate that this is a lot of information to process, but we must keep everyone informed as best as possible.

Further information will be released next week, to all parents about our whole school

reopening which involves all primary pupils (Year 1 to Year 7).

Please read the letter from the Minister of Education that has been placed on our school website.

Thank you very much for your patience.

Stay Safe

Ciarán Loane Principal

