

St. Catherine's Primary School

Principal: Mrs Bridget Wilders B.Ed. P.G. Dip.Ed. P.Q.H.

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Strabane
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BT82 8HT
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Senior School
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www.stcatherinesps.co.uk

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Important Update for Parents August 2020

17th August 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian,

As you are aware Mr. Weir (Minister for Education) issued guidance on 19th June. Acting on this guidance, staff prepared for Bubble Group Teaching. This meant that each class was divided in half, one half into Bubble A and the other half into Bubble B. Bubble A were to access school on a Monday and Tuesday and Bubble B were to access school on a Thursday and Friday. We sent you information regarding this "Half Class Bubble Approach" at the start of July in line with this guidance.

There has now been a change. Please read carefully below.

Since then Mr Weir announced on Thursday 6th August that ALL children would come back to school for FIVE Days a week and the half bubble strategy would be no longer in use. This means now that all children will attend school for FIVE DAYS per week starting TUESDAY 1st September. Year 7 Pupils will start school one week earlier as per Mr Weir's Guidance so they will start back at school on Monday 24th August. He issued further guidance about this to schools and parents on Thursday 13th August. See the table overleaf for start dates.



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Year Group	Start Date
Year 7	Monday 24 th August 2020 (Pupils will need packed lunches as canteen lunches will not be available this week)
All Year Groups School will be closed on 31 st August 2020 due to the Bank Holiday and will reopen fully for Years 2-7 on Tuesday 1 st September	
Years 2-6	Tuesday 1 st September 2020 (Lunches will be available from the school canteen and served to pupils in classrooms as per guidance)
Nursery and Year 1	Staggered start dates beginning 1 st September to enable settling in, as is usual practice. These dates / times will be sent to parents by post from Nursery and Year 1 Staff during the week commencing 17 th August 2020

Back to School Transition Days

Taking account of the fact that our little children have been out of school since Friday 13th March, we fully understand that there will be some level of excitement and anxiety too about returning to school. To this end we are organising a TRANSITION BACK TO SCHOOL DAY for all Year Groups Years 2-6 Week Beginning 24th August. During this day pupils will be dropped off at their designated school drop off point, met by their new teacher and taken to their new classrooms. This one day session will enable a little “Getting to Know You” for all pupils and the staff in their classroom. All classes will have a class teacher and at least one classroom assistant to aid a smooth transition back into school. See table overleaf for the dates of Transition Days for your child(ren).

Please also refer to the Welcome Pack that will be emailed to you to find out more details about the drop off point and start times for your child and further details. It must be noted that all whole class bubbles will have their own start times and drop off / collection points to aid social distancing, avoid congestion at the front of the school as much as possible and so help to stop the spread of the COVID-19 Virus as indicated in the DE Guidance.



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Year Group (2-6)	Transition Morning	Drop off / Collection Point	Start Time	Finish Time
Year 2 A (Mrs Mc Glynn)	Tuesday 25 th August	Back Door nearest to Mrs Mc Glynn's classroom	9.05am	2.10pm
Year 2 B (Mrs Hamilton)	Tuesday 25 th August	Front door nearest to Mrs Hamilton's classroom in Junior School Site	9.10am	2.15pm
Year 3 A (Ms Mc Gowan)	Wednesday 26 th August	Pedestrian Gate to the right of the Main Gate at the Junior School Site	8.50am	2.50pm
Year 3 B (Mrs Mc Brien)	Wednesday 26 th August	Pedestrian Gate to the right of the Main Gate at the Junior School Site	8.55am	2.55pm
Year 4 A (Mrs Kelly)	Thursday 27 th August	Pedestrian Gate to the right of the Main Gate at the Junior School Site	9am	3pm
Year 4 B (Mrs Vaughan)	Thursday 27 th August	Pedestrian Gate to the right of the Main Gate at the Junior School Site	9.05am	3.05pm
Year 5 A (Mrs Gormley)	Tuesday 25 th August	Gate at the right hand side of the Senior School	9.10am	3.10pm
Year 5 B (Mrs Connolly)	Tuesday 25 th August	Gate at the right hand side of the Senior School	9.15am	3.15pm
Year 5 C (Mrs O'Kane)	Tuesday 25 th August	Gate at the right hand side of the Senior School	9.20am	3.20pm
Year 6 A (Mr Mc Guigan)	Wednesday 26 th August	Gate at the right hand side of the Senior School	9am	3pm
Year 6 B (Mrs Daly)	Wednesday 26 th August	Gate at the right hand side of the	9.05am	3.05pm



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		Senior School		
Year 7 A (Miss Mc Granaghan)	Monday 24 th August –Friday 28 th August (5 days)	Gate at the right hand side of the Senior School	8.50am	2.50pm
Year 7 B (Mrs Deery)	Monday 24 th August –Friday 28 th August (5 days)	Double Gate at front of Senior School site nearest to the Main Front Door	8.50am	2.50pm
Year 7 C (Miss Keyes)	Monday 24 th August –Friday 28 th August (5 days)	Double Gate at front of Senior School site nearest to the Main Front Door	8.50am	2.50pm

Welcome Back to School Booklets

We will email you (this week) a very detailed WELCOME PACK with additional documents to help you prepare your child for returning to school.

Here is the contents list for the Welcome Pack that you will receive by email.

1. Introduction
2. Where to begin?
3. Managing Anxiety
4. General School Contact Information
5. School Chaplain
6. School Factfile and Administration Information
7. Bubble Strategy (including school start times/ finish times/ drop off / collection points)
8. COVID-19 Safety Checks
9. Food in School (including school dinners/ packed lunches)
10. Uniform
11. Transport
12. School Holidays for 2020/2021 Year
13. Social Distancing
14. Handwashing/ Toilets
15. Curriculum
16. Road Safety
17. Child Protection and Safeguarding
18. Communicating to Parents
19. Preparing you and your child for the New School Day

Additional Information

Appendix A: Back to School Pack for Younger Children

Appendix B: Back to School Pack for Parents

Appendix C: Getting my Temperature Taken

Appendix D: Why does my teacher look different?

Appendix E: COVID Symptom Self Check

Appendix F: Seeing other people wearing masks

Appendix G: Social Distancing



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Please read this information very carefully indeed. If you have any queries at all please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or Principal/ Vice Principal by telephoning the school or emailing the teacher directly. Staff email addresses are listed overleaf.

If you haven't received our WELCOME Back to School Booklet by 21st August please email your child's class teacher to let them know and one will be sent to you asap.

Staff roles and Email addresses.

Staff Member	Class / Role	Email Address
Mrs Bridget Wilders	Principal	bwilders592@c2kni.net
Miss Jennifer Doherty	Vice Principal Learning Support Leader Acting Maths and Numeracy Leader	jdoherty742@c2kni.net
Mrs B. Porter	Nursery Room 1	bporter544@c2kni.net
Mrs T. Mc Corkell	Nursery Room 2	tmccorkell825@c2kni.net
Mrs D. Doherty	Year 1 A Arts Leader Foundation Stage Choir Leader Acting Senior Leader	ddoherty115@c2kni.net
Miss C. Hutton	Year 1 B World Around Us Leader	chutton763@c2kni.net
Mrs A.M. Mc Glynn	Year 2 A	amcglynn388@c2kni.net
Mrs C. Hamilton	Year 2 B	chamilton290@c2kni.net
Ms Y. Mc Gowan	Year 3 A PDMU/Religion Leader	ymcgowan609@c2kni.net
Mrs M. Mc Brien	Year 3 B	mmcbrien385@c2kni.net
Mrs P.Kelly	Year 4 A Junior Choir Leader	pkelly547@c2kni.net
Mrs S. Vaughan	Year 4 B Junior Choir Leader	svaughan325@c2kni.net
Mrs C. Gormley	Year 5 A Extended Schools Leader	cgormley833@c2kni.net
Mrs C. Connolly	Year 5 B Language and Literacy Leader Senior Leader	cconnolly309@c2kni.net
Mrs S.O'Kane	Year 5 C PE/ Health and Safety Leader	sokane510@c2kni.net
Mr. A. Mc Guigan	Year 6 A	amcguigan559@c2kni.net



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Mrs. B. Daly	Year 6 B Pastoral Care/ Well Being Leader Senior Leader	bdaly611@c2kni.net
Miss C. Mc Granaghan	Year 7 A Acting Modern Languages Leader	cmcgranaghan274@c2kni.net
Mrs C. Deery	Year 7 B ICT Leader Senior Leader Senior Choir Leader	cdeery318@c2kni.net
Miss E. Keyes	Year 7 C	ekeyes746@c2kni.net
Mrs J Mc Laughlin	Learning Support Teacher	jmclaughlin485@c2kni.net

Keep in touch with us! Have you given us your contact mobile numbers and email addresses?

If you have changed your email address at all you may not receive this vital information for you and your child. In the event that you have changed your email address please email your new address stating your name and your child's name to Mrs Clare Kelly (Clerical Officer). Her email address is ckelly452@c2kni.net

If you have changed your home address or your mobile number please also contact Mrs Clare Kelly to update this information. If you try to ring the school and the line is busy then just email Mrs Kelly at the address above stating your details clearly.

Accessing the School grounds and building

It is to be noted that due to COVID-19 Restrictions parents of pupils Years 3-7 **may not enter the school grounds**. Parents of Pupils from Nursery – Year 2 may enter the school grounds to drop their children off at the school door nearest to their child's classroom. This is to aid social distancing and avoid congestion so as to reduce the spread of the virus.

Parents may only enter the school building by prearranged appointment or if a member of staff has contacted a parent and requested them to come to the school if necessary. If parents wish to speak with any member of staff they can.....

1. Phone school
2. Email staff member
3. Arrange a socially distanced meeting at a convenient time.

If you have any queries about the guidance do not hesitate to contact the Principal/ Vice Principal or a member of staff.



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Uniform

Children should wear their FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM upon return to school for the Transition Day and full time.

Staff will inform parents when PE will begin in school. On PE Days children should wear their PE Uniform (to avoid changing in school). See more details in the Welcome Back to School Booklet.

School Bags

Children **will not need school bags at school at the present time**. However if you have bought a school bag for your child, keep it safe. It is hoped that restrictions will ease in the future and if this happens we will let you know.

Stationery in school

Children will be provided with their own personal wallet in school to aid their learning and will not share resources with each other to stop the spread of infection. The wallet will contain their own pencils, crayons, colouring pencils, glue sticks, workbooks, exercise books, text books etc. This will be provided by the school and will remain in school.

Snacks

Children will have a snack in school mid morning as they have always done. All snacks should be in line with our Food in Schools Policy as is the usual practice.

Lunches / Dinners

School meals will be available from the canteen from TUESDAY 1st September onwards.

Year 7 children who will be back at school full time from Monday 24th August will be required to bring a packed lunch for this week but can get a canteen lunch from 1st September onwards.

Year 2-6 children who are coming in to school for their one **TRANSITION DAY** week beginning 24th August should bring a packed lunch but when they return to school on 1st September FULL time, a canteen lunch will be provided.

Nursery and Year 1 pupils will have start dates and settling in guidance issued to them separately.

If children are bringing packed lunches to school they should bring their lunch either

1. In a disposable bag
2. Or a lunch box which can be wiped clean at the end of every day before use again the next day.



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Homework

As we begin our full return to school our focus will be on making sure that our little children feel safe in school, can adjust to new routines in the classroom and can “get used” to being back at school again. To this end, we will not be sending homework for the first few weeks until we are assured that children feel settled. We will be in contact with you about homework arrangements in due course.

Transport

Further details will be issued in our Welcome Back to School Booklet which will be issued to you this week. If you have any urgent queries please contact Education Authority 02882 411 411 and ask for the Transport Section. Alternatively check out the website for the Education Authority www.eani.org.uk

In conclusion we are really looking forward to having our little children in school again. We know that we have to adjust to a NEW NORMAL but when we all work together, keep in regular contact, help each other out and show patience and understanding; we will get there!

Thank you so much for your patience, understanding and support to date in what have been very challenging times for us all.

God bless,

Mrs. B. Wilders
Principal



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