

St. Catherine's Primary School

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

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1st March 2021

Dear Parents,

As you are aware Mr. Weir (Minister for Education) made a media announcement during the Mid Term Break that there would be a phased return to school for some pupils from Monday 8th March onwards. Guidance has been sent from Mr.Weir regarding this announcement.

“from 8 March until 19 March, pupils in pre-school, nursery and primary schools pupils in P1 to P3 will return to full-time face-to-face teaching.”

This means that Nursery, Year 1, 2 and 3 Pupils will return to face to face teaching in school from Monday 8th March until Friday 19th March (excluding the St. Patrick's Day Public Holiday). It is to be noted that Years 4,5,6 and 7 pupils should remain at home for Remote Learning during this time.

His letter further outlines....

“pupils in years 12 to 14, who will be awarded qualifications in summer 2021, will return to full time face-to-face teaching with effect from 22 March 2021.

In recognition that any further increase in pupil attendance before mid-April has the potential to impact on the trajectory of the pandemic, the



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Executive have decided that to enable the return of qualification years, remote learning will resume for pre-school/nursery and pupils in P1-3 for the week beginning 22 March until the planned start of the Easter holidays for individual schools.”.

This means that Nursery, Year 1, 2 and 3 will return to Remote Learning (and not have school face to face teaching) from 22nd March until Easter.

He has also outlined that the reasoning for this

“I have always sought to be guided by the prevailing public health advice and scientific evidence, while recognizing the priority the Executive has placed on education, and all the benefits that brings, not just in the short term, but also for longer term societal and economic benefits.

I am prioritising the return of pupils in the early years in pre-school and primary school which are vital for children’s development and pupils in years 12-14 who are engaged in learning for key qualifications that are vital if they are to have every opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills required for progression to the next stage of education, employment or training.

My objective remains to have a full return of all pupils to face to face teaching in school as soon as practicably possible after the Easter break but I recognise this has to be balanced against the public health position. The clear feedback from schools, unions, parents and pupils has been that once a decision is taken to return to school, there should be no further periods of wholesale remote learning. However, I recognize that it may be necessary in limited cases.

Schools are reminded that breakfast clubs, education visits, inter school sports and after school activities should remain paused until at least 12 April or until advised otherwise.” (P.Weir; Minister for Education)



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What does this mean for our little pupils?

This means that all pupils in Nursery, Year 1, 2 and 3 will make a full return to school on Monday 8th March. They will remain in school for TWO WEEKS and then from Monday 22nd March they will return to REMOTE LEARNING until Easter.

While back at school again for these two weeks, our little children should wear their FULL WINTER UNIFORM and should be dropped off to school at the same drop off points as were in place before Christmas. As per DE/ PHA Guidance staggered drop off and collection times will remain in place (to avoid too many people gathering at the front of the school for drop off and school collection times). We also respectfully request that any parents of Nursery, Years 1 and 2 Pupils that are dropping their little children off to their allocated drop off point, should wear a face covering when entering the actual school site and continue to implement social distancing. (See Appendix A Reminder of Drop off times / collection times for children).

We must also remind parents to drop off the little children at the relevant school door, but if you would like to speak to the class teacher about any little concerns you might have please feel free to email the teacher or ring the school to request the teacher to ring you or even request a socially distanced meeting.....we are only too happy to help!

[As per DE/PHA Guidance, we are still required to try to limit the number of personnel who actually enter the school building to control the possible spread of any infection.]

(See Appendix B Staff Email Contacts)

Our school canteen will be operating from 8th March onwards and school meals will be delivered to the classes as was the case before Christmas. Children entitled to Free School Meals in (Nursery – Year 3)will have a meal provided in school. Children in Childcare Groups should bring a packed lunch; as payment will have gone into parents' bank accounts in lieu of Free School Meals. (See Appendix C New Canteen Menu attached)

As the letter has stated, this is a phased return for Nursery, Years 1,2 and 3 only at present.



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Years 4,5,6 and 7 should remain at home for Remote Learning until further notice.

Mr Weir has also stated that he hopes there will be a FULL RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR ALL PUPILS as soon as is practicably possible after the EASTER BREAK.

To this end, emergency childcare places will remain in place for children from Years 4-7 until Easter as much as possible. Where possible all pupils from Years 4-7 should remain at home to engage in Remote Learning and staff will continue to prepare work for our pupils using our Microsoft Teams Online Learning Platform. If anyone has any difficulty at all with accessing devices for Home Learning or if you need WIFI vouchers or feel you need other support please do not hesitate to contact Miss J. Doherty (Home Learning Leader) jdoherty742@c2kni.net or Mrs Wilders (Principal) bwilders592@c2kni.net

We are delighted that our little Nursery, Year 1,2 and 3 Pupils can return to school for face to face teaching but we also realise that this situation is far from what we all would like at present, as we would prefer to welcome all pupils back to school but as per DE Guidance that cannot happen at present.

We should continue to work together and we will get through this and there will be better days ahead!

If you have any queries at all about this information do not hesitate to email Mrs Wilders bwilders592@c2kni.net

In the meantime stay safe and God bless

Mrs Bridget Wilders
Principal

PS This letter contains information that is accurate as dated. However if DE change anything this week, we will let you know as soon as possible.



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Appendix A

| Year Group | Drop off / Collection Point | Start Time | Finish Time (Monday – Thursday) | Finish Time (FRIDAYS ONLY) |
|-------------------------|---|------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Nursery Room 1 | Nursery Room 1 External Door | 9am-9.30am | 1.30pm | 1pm |
| Nursery Room 2 | Nursery Room 2 External Door | 9am-9.30am | 1.35pm | 1.05pm |
| Year 1A (Mrs Doherty) | Front door nearest to Mrs Hamilton's classroom in Junior School Site | 8.50am | 2pm | 1.35pm |
| Year 1B (Miss Hutton) | Back Door nearest to Mrs Mc Glynn's classroom | 8.55am | 2.05pm | 1.40pm |
| Year 2 A (Mrs Mc Glynn) | Back Door nearest to Mrs Mc Glynn's classroom | 9.05am | 2.10pm | 1.50pm |
| Year 2 B (Mrs Hamilton) | Front door nearest to Mrs Hamilton's classroom in Junior School Site | 9.10am | 2.15pm | 1.55pm |
| Year 3 A (Ms Mc Gowan) | Pedestrian Gate to the right of the Main Gate at the Junior School Site | 8.50am | 2.50pm | 1.35pm |
| Year 3 B (Mrs Mc Brien) | Pedestrian Gate to the right of the Main Gate at the Junior School Site | 8.55am | 2.55pm | 1.40pm |

| | | | | |
|---|---|-----|--------|---|
| Year 4 Emergency Child Care Bubble | Pedestrian Gate to the right of the Main Gate at the Junior School Site | 9am | 2.15pm | N/A at present until a full return to school has been established |
| Senior School Emergency Child Care Bubble (Years 5-7) | Main Door at the Front of the Senior School | 9am | 2.15pm | N/A at present until a full return to school has been established |



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Appendix B

REMINDER: Staff roles and Email addresses.

| Staff Member | Class / Role | Email Address |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Mrs Bridget Wilders | Principal | bwilders592@c2kni.net |
| Miss Jennifer Doherty | Vice Principal | 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 | ddoherty115@c2kni.net |
| Miss C. Hutton | Year 1 B | chutton763@c2kni.net |
| Mrs A.M. Mc Glynn | Year 2 A | amcglynn388@c2kni.net |
| Mrs K. Carlin | Year 2 B | kcarlin208@c2kni.net |
| Ms Y. Mc Gowan | Year 3 A | ymcgowan609@c2kni.net |
| Mrs J. Mc Laughlin | Year 3 B | jmclaughlin485@c2kni.net |
| Miss . B. Kelly | Year 4 A | bkelly663@c2kni.net |
| Mrs S. Vaughan | Year 4 B | svaughan325@c2kni.net |
| Mrs C. Gormley | Year 5 A | cgormley833@c2kni.net |
| Mrs C. Connolly | Year 5 B | cconnolly309@c2kni.net |
| Miss M. Whoriskey | Year 5 C | mwhoriskey245@c2kni.net |
| Mr. A. Mc Guigan | Year 6 A | amcguigan559@c2kni.net |
| Mrs. B. Daly | Year 6 B | bdaly611@c2kni.net |
| Miss C. Mc Granaghan | Year 7 A | cmcgranaghan274@c2kni.net |
| Mrs C. Deery | Year 7 B | cdeery318@c2kni.net |
| Miss E. Keyes | Year 7 C | ekeyes746@c2kni.net |



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Appendix C

Menu Term [2] Jan 21- Apr21

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Week One | Packed Lunch | Packed lunch | Packed lunch | Packed lunch | Packed lunch |
| 4th Jan 21 | | | | | |
| 01-Feb-21 | Oven roasted sausages | Home-made | Roast turkey crown | Breaded oven baked fish | 100% NI beef burger |
| 01-Mar-21 | Baked Beans/peas | chicken goujons | roast/mashed potatoes | steamed mixed vegetables | in a sesame roll |
| 29-Mar-21 | Mashed Potato | sweetcorn | cauliflower | Mashed Potato | sweetcorn |
| | Frozen yoghurt | Herb diced Potatoes | stuffing/roast gravy | Home-made fruit muffin | Chipped potatoes |
| | | Flakemeal Biscuit | Home made cookie | | Ice cream tub |
| Week Two | Packed Lunch | Packed lunch | Packed lunch | Packed lunch | Packed lunch |
| 11-Jan-21 | | | | | NI pork sausage |
| 08-Feb-21 | Breaded oven baked fish | Homemade | Roast NI chicken | Savoury mince | served in a soft finger roll |
| 08-Mar-21 | Oven roasted dice potato | pasta bologanise | roast/mashed potatoes | Mashed potatoes | topped with |
| 05-Apr-21 | potatoes/mixed vegetables | crusty roll | carrots | steamed mixed vegetables | saute onions |
| | Homemade shortbread | sweetcorn/salad | stuffing/roast gravy | & beans | Chipped potatoes |
| | | Fruit Jelly | Artic Roll | Flakemeal biscuit | Ice cream tub |
| Week Three | Packed lunch | Packed lunch | Packed lunch | Packed lunch | Packed lunch |
| 18-Jan-21 | | | | | |
| 15-Feb-21 | Savoury pizza with | Golden Fish fingers or | Roast loin of NI pork | Succulent home-made | 100% NI beef burger |
| 15-Mar-21 | fresh toppings | Salmon fish cakes | roast/mashed potatoes | chicken goujons/garlic dip | in a sesame roll |
| 11 apr 221 | Baby baked potatoes | Baby baked potatoes | peas | Oven roasted herb dice | sweetcorn |
| | green beans | broccoli & beans | stuffing/roast gravy | potatoes & peas | Chipped potatoes |
| | Frozen yoghurt | Home-made fruit muffin | Decorated sponge+custard | Fruit Jelly | Ice cream & Fruit |
| Week Four | Packed lunch | Packed lunch | Packed lunch | Packed lunch | Packed lunch |
| 25-Jan-21 | | | | | NI pork sausage |
| 22-Feb-21 | Golden Fish fingers or | Hearty home-made | Roast Gammon | chicken bites | served in a soft finger roll |
| 22-Mar-21 | Oven roasted dice potato | chicken curry+rice | roast/mashed potatoes | tossed salad. | topped with |
| 18-Apr-21 | green beans | made with fresh | carrots | creamy mash | saute onions |
| | baked beans | N.I. produce | stuffing/roast gravy | Carrots | Chipped potatoes |
| | Flakemeal biscuit | Fresh fruit pot | Artic Roll | Homemade shortbread | Ice cream tub |

Packed Lunch:

1. Freshly cut sandwiches/baguette/flour tortilla
2. Whole milk or spring water
3. Salad tub or vegetable sticks
4. Vanilla rice pot/jelly pot/whole fresh fruit/homemade biscuit or chose from desserts above

(packed lunch includes one item from each group)

**school
food**

try something new today

www.schoolfoodni.com

Fresh bread, cheese & crackers, seasonal salads, fresh fruit, chilled yoghurt, water & milk available daily

If you require any additional information on allergens or special diet please contact the school in the first instance



try something new today