

 **Ebrington Primary & Nursery School**

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Principal: Mr B F Guthrie, BA Hons ED PQH

2 March 2021

Dear Parent

I am sure by now you will all be aware of the announcement from the Minister of Education that pupils in Nursery and Primary 1-Primary 3 should return to school for a period of two weeks from Monday 8 March. I know that there are still some rumblings of potential changes to this plan but, for now, I remain as well informed as you.

In preparation for this school return, please see below a number of key issues that need addressed.

 **Friday 5th March 2021**

* There will be no remote learning provision for Nursery/Primary 3 and Speech & Language pupils.

Since the start of January 2021, many of these classrooms have been used at various stages to accommodate key worker/ vulnerable pupils. The teaching staff need this Friday to be in school and ensure their classrooms are ready to receive pupils on Monday morning. We are very excited about their return.

The key to a successful return will be to engage these pupils socially, as well as academically and staff will be planning appropriate activities to engage, enthuse and encourage active participation and socialisation, while remaining in the ‘safety’ of their class bubble.

 **8th March-19th March (excluding 17th March-school closed for St Patrick’s Day)**

* Nursery-Primary 3 to return to school. Nursery normal opening hours. Primary 1-3 pupils will all stay until 3:00pm, except for Friday, with a 2:00pm finish for enhanced clean. Speech & Language pupils remain in school in line with the main year group Monday-Wednesday, but finish at 1:00pm on Thursdays and Fridays.
* School remains open for key worker/ vulnerable pupils in Primary 4-7

At this point, we have been informed that school meals are to be made available to all Nursery-Primary 3 pupils but are awaiting further information and clarity form the Education Authority with regards key worker/ vulnerable pupils, due to pending decisions on FSM payments, outside of our control.

An updated RESTART guidance document will give an overview of further details.

***ALL PARENT VEHICULAR ACCESS TO THE SCHOOL SITE DURING THIS TWO-WEEK PERIOD SHOULD BE VIA THE SHALE PITCH, AS WAS THE POLICY IN TERM ONE. PLEASE ENSURE SOCIAL DISTANCING AND FOLLOW THE ONE-WAY OPERATIONAL SYSTEM PREVIOSULY IN PLACE WHEN MOVING ON SITE.***

***\*\*THERE WILL BE NO REMOTE LEARNING PROVIDED FOR NURSERY-P3 PUPILS DURING THIS TWO-WEEK PERIOD\*\****

 **22nd March-26th March**

* All pupils will be back to remote learning through SeeSaw and GC.
* School remains open for key worker/ vulnerable pupils in Nursery-P7

\*\*\*Staff in P1-P7 will be holding parental interviews via telephone during this week. On the days when interviews are taking place, there will be no remote learning set\*\*\*

An MS Forms will be sent to parents identifying time slots for interviews (these should last no longer than 10 minutes.

***Please ensure you complete and return a form for each child at school, giving all relevant details.***

**29th March-9th April**

* School closed for Easter Holidays

**12th April**

* School reopens for Term 3-arrangements communicated to parents after announcements from Executive/ DE are passed on to school.

We are confident that this date will see the resumption on Nursery-Primary 3, following on from the Easter break and we are ever hopeful that it will also see the return of our other year groups

**With regards key worker ‘supervised learning’, please only use this if absolutely necessary and use only on the days needed.** We have had a high influx of requests in the past week and simply do not have the staff to manage the number of requests. DE guidance clearly states that bubbles should not be any bigger than normal class size-for Ebrington, this means 30 pupils. Due to staff managing both supervised learning and remote learning, we have to operate with two bubbles-a Primary 4/5 and a Primary 6/7 bubble. If we reach 32 within a bubble, then we will have to prioritise who can access this provision. If you are able to work from home then, realistically, you may be asked to keep your child at home with you. **Whilst we will look at this as a last resort, please do not abuse the system.**

Kind regards



Mr B Guthrie