


Principal: Mr G.C. McCluskey B.Ed (Hons), M.Ed, PQH (NI) Telephone : Nursery Unit - 02893369812 Primary School - 02893351352		OAKFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT www.oakfieldprimaryschool.com
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Friday 3 July 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we finish a most unusual academic year, I sincerely hope this letter finds you all well. I wanted to contact you, as I am sure everyone is wondering what September 2020 is going to look like for all our Oakfield staff and pupils.

Following publication of Northern Ireland Re-opening Schools Guidance 'New School Day' published on 19 June 2020, we have been asked by the Department of Education to put plans in place for August/September 2020. However, it should be noted that public health advice, at the time of school opening in August/September 2020, will always take precedence over any plans that we make.

No doubt you have heard about some of the contents of this document through the news and social media, but I will give you a brief summary of the main points. Minister of Education, Peter Weir MLA, has stated that Primary 7 pupils should return to school on 24 August 2020, if safe to do so. These pupils should return prior to our Nursery Unit to Primary 6 children.

The Executive on 18 June 2020 agreed that the current social distancing guidance of 2m must be followed between all adults within the education sector but that a distance of 1m is appropriate between children while using a 'protective bubble' strategy. The use of 'protective bubbles' should cover all aspects of the school day including staggered times for meals and play in Primary schools. Staggered arrival and collection times to limit interactions are also advised. At both arrival and collection times, parents are prohibited from entering the school buildings. Please telephone our main office on 02893351352 to speak to our school secretary, Mrs Craig, if required. A drop off container will be placed outside our main entrance, for exchange of any necessary documentation, but we would hope that most information could be exchanged electronically.

Social distancing and increased hygiene measures will be introduced throughout the school. Children will wash their hands as soon as they arrive at school and regularly throughout the day. We will be reminding pupils to avoid touching their faces including mouth, eyes and nose. Children should be supplied with disposable tissues to use the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach in each classroom. As Coronavirus can land on fabrics and remain there for some time, parents are encouraged to regularly wash and change their children's uniform. No shoes with shoelaces please, unless the children can tie them by themselves. No P.E. kits will be required at this stage. PPE should **not** be worn by children, but staff may need to wear gloves, aprons, masks or visors for certain tasks.

Department of Education guidance discourages children from bringing items from home to school and vice versa. That is why many teachers have asked for a separate set of equipment to be brought to school at the start of next year and kept there. To facilitate this further, no schoolbags will be permitted in school initially, in August/September 2020. Items to bring on the first day, as per list with report, should be brought in a plastic bag which will not be returned home. Pupils will bring their own break and packed lunch to school, prepared safely at home. Pupils eligible for free school meals will have their free school meals delivered to classrooms from Tuesday 1 September 2020.

Any pupil who exhibits symptoms associated with COVID-19 should **not** attend school. The Department of Health has implemented a contact-tracing programme called 'Test, Trace and Protect' designed to control the spread of COVID-19. All pupils are expected to follow the requirements of this programme: to self-isolate if they are identified as close contacts of cases and to obtain a test for COVID-19 if they develop symptoms. If anyone becomes unwell with Covid19 symptoms in school, they must be isolated and sent home immediately.

For now, we have devised two plans of action. **Plan A** is our plan if restrictions do not ease further during the Summer months and involve P1-6 40% face-to-face teaching alongside 60% online blended learning. Classes will be split into two

'protective bubble' groups, group 1, starting Thursday 27 August 2020 and group 2 starting Monday 31 August 2020. With this letter you will also receive notification of which group your child/ren have been allocated. We have endeavoured to keep siblings on the same days to help parents with work/childcare arrangements. P7 pupils will attend daily from Monday 24 August 2020. Staggered arrival, break, lunch and collection times will be implemented initially but this will be kept under review. Nursery Unit classes have separate arrangements.

Plan B is our plan if restrictions ease and all pupils will return to school in protective whole class bubbles. This plan is based on the understanding that there will be no social distancing required between pupils in the same class but 2m social distance must be kept from their teacher. Nursery Unit classes have separate arrangements.

For **Plans A and B**, we will adopt the protective bubble strategy. There will be no playground supervision in the mornings before school. We will not be operating a Breakfast Club or be having After School Activities, as children in protective bubbles should not be mixed. The Health and Safety of all staff, parents and pupils is paramount.

Please find the details of **Plans A and B** below. We have been informed that the Education Authority (EA) will develop further operational guidance and provide this to schools during the Summer holidays. As soon as this happens, I will be in touch via Facebook and our school website to let you know which plan we are adopting from 24 August 2020.

Wishing everyone a lovely Summer break and we look forward to welcoming you all back very soon.

George McCluskey

Plan A P1-P6 40% face-to-face teaching along with 60% blended online learning**P7 - 100% face-to-face teaching**

Primary 7 Full Classes	Monday 24 th August 2020 - Friday 28 th August 2020 Monday 31 st August 2020 onwards	9am-12.20pm each day (no canteen facilities) 9am - 1.40pm each day (free school meals served only)
Primary 1-6 Protective Bubble - Group 1 An email will be sent to you to inform you if your child is in Group 1	Thursday 27 th August 2020 Friday 28 th August 2020 Thursday 3 rd September 2020 Friday 4 th September 2020 Thursday 10 th September 2020 Friday 11 th September 2020 Thursday 17 th September 2020 Friday 18 th September 2020 Thursday 24 th September 2020 Friday 25 th September 2020	P1 9am - 12noon (no canteen facilities) P2 9.10am-12.10pm(no canteen facilities) P3 9.10am-12.10pm (no canteen facilities) P4 9am-12.05pm (no canteen facilities) P5 9.20am-12.30pm (no canteen facilities) P6 9.20am-12.30pm (no canteen facilities) <u>Staggered arrival and collection times</u> P1 9am - 12 noon P2 9.10am-1.50pm P3 9.10am-1.50pm P4 9am-1.40pm P5 9.20am-2pm P6 9.20am-2pm Please adhere strictly to these timings to ensure minimum contact as per restrictions.
Primary 1-6 Protective Bubble - Group 2 An email will be sent to you to inform you if your child is in Group 2	Monday 31 st August 2020 Tuesday 1 st September 2020 Monday 7 th September 2020 Tuesday 8 th September 2020 Monday 14 th September 2020 Tuesday 15 th September 2020 Monday 21 st September 2020 Tuesday 22 nd September 2020 Monday 28 th September 2020 Tuesday 29 th September 2020	<u>Staggered arrival and collection times</u> P1 9am - 12 noon P2 9.10am-1.50pm P3 9.10am-1.50pm P4 9am-1.40pm P5 9.20am-2pm P6 9.20am-2pm Please adhere strictly to these timings to ensure minimum contact as per restrictions.

*From Tuesday 1 September 2020 only pupils in receipt of free school meals will be served school dinners. These will be delivered to classrooms.

**Nursery Unit classes have separate arrangements.

Plan B P1-P7 100% face-to-face teaching for all pupils

Primary 7 Full Classes	Monday 24 th August 2020 - Friday 28 th August 2020 Monday 31 st August 2020 Tuesday 1 st September 2020 onwards	9am-12.20pm each day (no canteen facilities) Bank holiday - school closed 9am - 2.40pm each day
Primary 1-6 Full Classes	Thursday 27 th August 2020 Friday 28 th August 2020 Monday 31 st August 2020 Tuesday 1 st September 2020 onwards	<u>Staggered Arrival and collection times</u> P1 9am - 12noon (no canteen facilities) P2 9.10am-12.10pm(no canteen facilities) P3 9.10am-12.10pm (no canteen facilities) P4 9am-12.05pm (no canteen facilities) P5 9.20am-12.30pm (no canteen facilities) P6 9.20am-12.30pm (no canteen facilities) Bank holiday - school closed <u>Staggered Arrival and collection times</u> P1 9am - 12 noon P2 9.10am-1.50pm P3 9.10am-1.50pm P4 9am-2.40pm P5 9.20am-3pm P6 9.20am-3pm Please adhere strictly to these timings to ensure minimum contact as per restrictions.

*From Tuesday 1 September 2020 only pupils in receipt of free school meals will be served school dinners. These will be delivered to classrooms.

**Nursery Unit classes have separate arrangements.