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Tuesday 18 August 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope you have had an enjoyable Summer during these unprecedented times

Following publication of Northern Ireland Re-opening Schools Guidance 'New School Day' published on 13 August 2020, we have put our final restart plan in place for August/September 2020.

The NI Executive, on 6 August 2020, agreed that the stringent application of social distancing requirements between pupils will be relaxed from 17 August 2020. Public health guidance with respect to social distancing of 2m will remain in place between adults and as far as possible between adults and pupils. We will strenuously endeavour to implement as much social distancing as is practical where physical capacity and curriculum delivery permit. Therefore the use of 'protective bubbles/self-contained cohorts' will cover all aspects of our school day. Staggered arrival and collection times have been put in place to ensure social distancing. We have been informed that Carrickfergus Grammar School will be using the facilities at Oakfield Community Centre from 1 September 2020 and therefore the Community Centre car-park may be more congested than usual. 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 have been introduced throughout the school. Children will wash their hands as soon as they arrive at school and sanitise 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 school ties are required during September 2020 as these can be a source of contamination. 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. No canteen facilities are available during August but school meals will be available 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. If any child is absent from school for any reason, the school will need to be informed of the reason for their absence before they can be readmitted to school.

We have a final restart plan in which all pupils will return to school in protective whole class bubbles/self-contained cohorts. Nursery Unit classes have separate arrangements with start dates and times which have been confirmed via seesaw. Primary 7 classes will commence on Monday 24 August 2020 and Primaries 1-6 from Thursday 27 August 2020.

For September 2020, 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. The Health and Safety of all staff, parents and pupils is paramount. All of these arrangements and procedures will be kept under review.

We look forward to welcoming all our staff and children back to Oakfield PS & NU.

Many thanks

George McCluskey

Final restart plan – August/September 2020

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 - 2.00pm 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 (1.9.20 – 18.9.20) P1 9am – 1.40pm (21.9.20 – 30.9.20) P2 9.10am-1.50pm P3 9.10am-1.50pm P4 9am-2.00pm P5 9.20am-2.20pm P6 9.20am-2.20pm Please adhere strictly to these timings to ensure minimum contact as per restrictions.

**Nursery Unit classes – start dates & times have been confirmed via seesaw.