



St. Malachy's Primary School

Bunscoil Naomh Maeleachlainn

Chapel Lane • Armagh • BT61 7EG • Tel: 028 3752 3847 • Fax: 028 3752 8830 • Principal: Mr Paul Duggan
www.stmalachysprimary.org

26 August 2021

Dear Parents

I hope that you have had a wonderful summer. I held off as long as possible before providing clarity regarding back to school arrangements as I wanted to base them on the most current guidance available. I wish to acknowledge the co-operation shown by our parent body, the guidance and support of our Board of Governors and the dedication of our staff over the last year.

Measures to Mitigate Risk

There are a number of measures that we are maintaining to ensure that we follow the DENI guidance and also ensure that any disruptions to learning are kept to an absolute minimum.

We will continue with staggered drop off and pick up times in line with guidance from DENI and to try and minimise large gatherings of parents/pupils at any one time on the school site. As has always been the case, the health and safety of our school community is a priority. These measures will be reviewed at Hallowe'en.

School bags, lunch boxes, water bottles and pencil cases

Pupils can take these to school with them this year. Lunches will continue to be eaten in classrooms to avoid congestion in the dinner room.

Required mitigations on return to School (Ref DE guidance)

We need to be assured of full compliance from parents with PHA guidance if a child is isolating either because of -

- A) Covid symptoms
- B) positive result
- C) close contact status or
- D) having returned to Northern Ireland and isolating in line with NI Direct travel advice and regulations.

As above we would respectfully request that:

- Parents maintain 2 m distancing and are discouraged from gathering outside school grounds.
- As was the case last year no adults other than staff, or those with appointments will be admitted to the main school building. If a parent wishes to speak with any member of staff, including myself or Mrs. Kearney I would ask that you contact the main office on 02837523847 and an appointment or call back will be arranged
- Hand and Respiratory hygiene messages will continue to be shared with pupils.
- Ventilation of the school building will be managed carefully.

Free School Meals / Uniform Allowance

Once again, we remind parents that application should be made online to EA for Free School Meals / Uniform Allowance. Even if you think your child will not avail of the free school meals, please make the application so you do not miss out on the Uniform Allowance. **School Meals will have to be paid for (or lunches taken) until approval is received from EA for the award of Free School Meals.** If you have applied for Free School Meals but have not received your approval letter please pay for any meals on the School Money Website/App. The Free School Meal Numbers also have an impact on the budget our school receives.

Payments for Dinner on School Money Website/App

We will continue to use this service for all payments. **Please do not send any cash into school.** If you have problems logging on to the system please contact the office by email at dcarolan754@c2kni.net

School Day times from 1st September:

P2- P3: 8.45/9.00/9.15 am - 1.45/2.00/2.15 pm * P1 will also adhere to these times when they have completed their start of year induction.

P4-P7: 8.45/9.00/9.15 am - 2.45/3.00/3.15 pm

Updating Pupil Details

If you have changed your address, telephone number or any family details, please email dcarolan754@c2kni.net with the updates.

Dietary Needs

If your child has any **NEW OR CHANGED** dietary needs, please advise the school office as soon as possible, in order that our School Meals Staff can be advised.

Vaccinations

The up-to-date guidance issued by DENI does not include for vaccination or testing of primary school pupils. Please be assured that parental consent will be requested if the guidelines change at any time in the future.

In relation to the **annual flu vaccination** due in November, letters from the Health Service will be sent home prior to this date for parents to complete and return.

Primary 1 Intake 2021

We would like to welcome our new P1s. They will be coming in for staggered induction for 1 day only between Friday 27th and Friday 3rd from 9 - 11 am. Children should bring water and fruit for morning snack. They can be dropped off and picked up from the side door of the school building. All P1 children will attend from 9 - 11 am from Monday 6th to Friday 10th September. Children will be in from 9 - 12 noon week beginning 13th - 17th and from 20th September will be in for a full day 9 am - 2 pm. From Monday 6th there will be staggered start and finishing times which will be communicated at a later date.

If you have not already done so, please sign up to the schoolapp. If you have any problems downloading or logging onto the app please send an email to dcarolan754@c2kni.net.

Induction day 31st August

I look forward to welcoming all P2-P7 children back to school for their induction morning on Tuesday 31st August. Children will come in from 8.45 - 9.15 as they did last year and will finish between 11.45 and 12.15 pm.

Pupils can bring a snack with them for break on this day. As stated previously there will be no school meals operating on this day. School meals will resume on Wednesday 1st September.

Breakfast Club / After Schools Wraparound Service

Both the Breakfast Club and After Schools service will resume beginning Monday 6th September. There will be a separate communication on these facilities.

School Holidays

A list of the School Holidays for 2021-2022 is published on our website.

Yours sincerely

Paul Duggan
Principal