



'Being the best that we can be'

Friday Note

Friday 28th August 2020

No. 2

Dear Parents,

We have almost completed our first week. Our Primary 7 pupils have been an absolute credit, bouncing straight back to school and setting to work with real zeal! And on Thursday, what a pleasure it was to see a full school, filled with lots of smiling faces all ready to learn.

The last couple of days have given us the opportunity to get used to the new drop-off procedures. All pupils now know their exact entrance points. To protect everyone, please follow our guidelines;

- Drop off at designated time and move on (P3-P7 do not need walked down the lane or through the back car park)
- Do not enter the school building or congregate at entrance points

Staggered Entrance Times and Pick-Up Times

Year Group	Drop-off
Eldest Child in P5/P6/P7 (& younger siblings)	8.45am – 8.55am
Eldest child in P3/P4 (& younger siblings)	8.55am – 9.05am
Eldest child in P1/P2	9.05 – 9.15am

Collection Points

Class	COLLECTION TIMES AND PICK UP POINTS
P1 Miss Hearty	1.30pm Back Car Park
P1 Mrs McManus	1.30pm Top of Lane
P2 Mrs Crilly	1.40pm Back Car Park
P2 Miss McAnerney	1.40pm Top of Lane
P3 Mrs Gould	1.50pm Back Car Park
P3 Miss Clarke	1.50pm Top of Lane
P4 Mrs Connolly	2pm Top of Lane
P4 Mrs Hanna	2pm Back Car Park
P5 Ms Kitt	2.10pm Top of Lane
P5 Mrs Gartland	2.10pm Back Car Park
P6 Mrs McCambridge	2.20pm Top of Lane
P6 Mrs Gorman	2.20pm Back Car Park
P7 Mrs O'Hare	2.30pm Back Car Park
P7 Mrs Fleming	2.30pm Top of Lane

These staggered times have been up in place to protect our pupils, parents and our staff. It is extremely important that parents stick to these times especially in morning drop off. Children not attending breakfast club **cannot enter the school until 8.45 or after**. There will be no supervision outside.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we get used to this 'new normal'. These procedures follow DENI guidance and as such remain under constant review.



Shared Education

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Cool Kids

Cool Kids is now open for booking on Schoolmoney. To facilitate our class bubbles and to help us organise our staffing each week, we would really **appreciate it if all bookings could be made on the system by the Friday of the previous week**. Booking will still be open after Friday for emergencies etc but if you can, please book ahead.

After School Activities

Unfortunately, our extensive after school activities programme has been postponed for this half term. We appreciate that children enjoy being involved in the wide range of extra-curricular activities we provide here in school. We will work to ensure that such provision can be relaunched as early as possible subject to health and safety guidance. We will keep parents informed of any further updates.

Text Book Amnesty

Following lockdown, we have noticed that we are seriously short in text books, reading books and novels. These may be 'hiding' under beds or lingering under sofas. Could we please ask you to have a good look for any text books. Library books or reading books that may be at home, could you return them as soon as possible with your eldest child. Thank you in advance.

PTM and PTE

PTM (Progress Test Maths) and PTE (Progress Test English) are standardised test that are normally completed in May of each academic year by pupils in P3 – P7. Children generate a raw score which is then standardised according to their age. As children did not complete these tests in May, as a school, we had to consider whether or not children completed them in September of this year. Due to the standardisation element of these tests, the last week that pupils could possibly complete these tests is the last week of September. As a school, we believe that this would not be in line with our pastoral ethos at all. Our key focus this term is to help children to settle back into school and to develop positive friendships again with their classmates. To monitor children's progress we will be carrying out our usual 8 weekly Literacy and Numeracy assessments in October and these results will be shared with you as parents. These will help teachers in P3 – P6 monitor children's progress.

Parent Teacher Consultations

In order to adhere to social distancing guidelines it will not be possible to have parent teacher consultations for P2 – P6 children. P1 baselining meetings will go ahead and P7 teachers will meet Parents of P7 children ahead of transfer. Parents of children in P2 – P6 will have the opportunity to meet their child's teacher to discuss progress in February. This is following the DENI Guidelines of 1 parent-teacher consultation per year. As always in St. Joseph's, if you would like to speak to your child's teacher regarding your child's progress, please ring and make an appointment.

School Dinners

- **Online booking** - for school dinners is now open on Schoolmoney (Up to Halloween mid-term break). Please remember that hot dinners are not available at the moment so if you book a dinner, your child will receive a packed lunch from our EA canteen.
- **Free Dinners** - If your child is entitled to free dinners, then you **MUST** book online via Schoolmoney. If you do not book, then the canteen will not have prepared enough packed lunches for all children.
- **Nut-free school** - A reminder that there are children in our school with allergies. As such, this is a reminder that we are a nut-free school.

Kind regards and many thanks for your support,
Barry McMahan



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