

**OUR LADY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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**Principal: Mr Tomás Mc Kee**



18<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

**Reference: Return of Primary 4 – 7 pupils on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021**

Dear Parents/Guardians

I write to you to outline our arrangements for the return Primary 4 – 7 children to school on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

First of all, I would like to pay tribute to our whole school community for the outstanding work that has taken place over the course of this school year and particularly during term two. The children have been fantastic with how they have responded to the challenges of remote learning and it will be great to see all children back in school next week. I would like to acknowledge the excellent support that the children have received from their families which has been evident in the quality of the children's learning. Well done! I must thank all our staff for their commitment and dedication to our school community which was demonstrated by every staff member assisting with supervised learning for children of 'key workers'. From the beginning of January we had over 20 children in school daily, for supervised learning and this increased to over 30 during the month of March. As a school we aspire to support our local community and I feel that we fulfilled this aspiration over the course of the last year with the support provided to key worker families through supervised learning.

I would particularly like to mention our class teachers and acknowledge the excellent quality of learning that they have provided for the children throughout the year and particularly during term two. They adapted very quickly to the challenges of remote learning, as well as supervising children in school and ensured that all children were provided with both online learning through the use of Seesaw alongside paper packs. I think we would all have to agree that Seesaw was a brilliant addition to our remote learning provision which enabled teachers to interact with the children, post work, videos, voice recordings, internet links, messages, mark work and provide feedback on the children's learning. This was further extended through the use of Zoom for live sessions, particularly in Primary 6 and 7 where the classes participated in at least two live sessions each week. We were also very lucky to have two excellent students, Megan Campbell (past pupil) and Kevin Muldoon, both students at St. Mary's College, Belfast, who have been fantastic in assisting with the learning in Primary 6 and 7. We appreciate the efforts of Megan, Kevin, teachers and all staff as we look forward to all children returning to school.

The arrangements for Primary 4 – 7 children returning to school on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March with the Reception to Primary 3 children who returned to school on 8<sup>th</sup> March will be as follows:

1. **School will open at 8.30am** and all children should leave their *bags* (please ensure all reading books are brought back to school) in their cloakroom and go to their designated play area. We are not permitted to offer a Breakfast Club as the Department of Education has informed schools that this must be paused until at least 12<sup>th</sup> April.
2. **School transport (face coverings must be worn on school transport) and dinners (Menu is on the school website) will be available for all children.** Please ensure that dinners are paid in advance and

via ParentPay. Some amounts are outstanding and we would greatly appreciate if these bills could be settled before the Easter holidays.

3. **All children must wear full school uniform** as normal, and please ensure that all items are labelled.
4. **Primary 4-7 children must bring the final week's work from their last packs** with them as the learning that they will engage in over the course of the week will be based on this planned work.
5. **Homework** for all children will focus on reading, phonics or spellings, mental maths and Athletics/Mathseeds activities for the final week of March. Normal homework arrangements will resume after the Easter break.
6. **123 Club** will be available for all P1-P3 children. Please email the school ([info@ourladys.tullysaran.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@ourladys.tullysaran.ni.sch.uk)) to make a booking or call the school office and pay via Parent Pay. 123 Club is £3 per child daily.
7. **Parents/Carers leaving or collecting children from school must wear FACE COVERINGS on the school grounds and ensure that social distancing guidelines are followed.** *I have been informed that some adults are not wearing face coverings on school grounds. I would ask everyone to ensure they wear a face covering on the school grounds in the best interests of our whole school community.* Please avoid gathering at the school gates and remember to drive and park safely around the school grounds. Our carpark will continue to remain closed as we will again use this area as a play area to ensure all children are able to play in their class bubbles. O'Connells GAC, have permitted staff to park in the club grounds and we greatly appreciate the club's support. Outside the school can be very congested at drop off and collection times so we would encourage parents/carers to park in the area in front of the GAA grounds and walk children down to or from school. Please be respectful of local residents' properties and do not turn in peoples' driveways. **Collection times will be as follows: Reception: 1pm** from the front foyer; **P1: 1.55pm** from the front foyer; **P2: 2.05pm** from the Primary 2 door at the rear of the school and **P3: 2pm** from the front of the school. **P4-7: 3pm** children will be walked to the area outside the school kitchen where they can then walk to the school gate to meet parents/carers or to an agreed collection point. *(Please note: our front doors have been upgraded and are now programmed to open automatically so please be mindful of this if entering the school building)*
8. **We will post a short parents' survey** on our website next week, login details will sent out via text next week and we would greatly appreciate if you could take 5 to 10 minutes to complete the survey.
9. **On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March we will host our Easter raffle.** In January we committed to holding an Easter egg raffle for all children who returned their reading books over the course of remote learning. We will have our Easter raffle on Thursday so please ensure all reading books have been returned by Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March to ensure that everyone is in the Easter draw.
10. **School will close on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March (normal times) for the Easter holidays.** School will return for all children on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April when we can hopefully look forward to face to face teaching for all children until the end of June.



Please contact the school office if you have any questions regarding these arrangements.

I must also remind all parents/guardians, that It is vitally important if your child(ren) displays any **symptoms of COVID19** (*continuous cough, high temperature, loss of smell/taste*) they **MUST** not attend school or travel on school transport. Children must also not come to school if a member of their household or someone with whom they have had a close contact is being tested for COVID19. It is preferable that a child misses one or two days rather than a whole group of children or adults having to isolate for 10 days. Parents must contact the school if a member of your household tests positive for COVID19 as this could have implications for our staff, other children and their families. Staff members have also been given the same advice. We have been

very lucky from the beginning of this school year that none of our bubbles have had to isolate. This has been due to our whole school community working together and displaying excellent vigilance. Hopefully we will all continue to display the same attentiveness as we come out of this third lockdown and look forward to better days.

If a child displays COVID19 symptoms in school we will isolate the child in a designated area (child will be supervised by an adult) and contact parents. You must then follow PHA guidance. Please ensure that your contact details are up to date and you have plans in place to deal with such an event. Hopefully this does not occur but it is better to be prepared.

Please contact the school if you have any further queries regarding the return of Primary 4 - 7 children on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Thank you for your anticipated co-operation with these matters and we look forward to all children attending school next week.

Take care and all the best,

*Tomás Mc Kee*

**Tomás Mc Kee**

**Principal**