

Ebrington Primary School & Nursery Unit



School RESTART Plan August 2022

Ebrington Primary & Nursery School seeks to provide a caring secure and challenging environment in which all our pupils have an equal opportunity to reach their full potential – spiritually, socially, academically, physically, emotionally, morally and culturally and in which teaching and learning of academic excellence can occur with the co-operation and support of parents.

Dear Parent

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you and your child back to school on Wednesday 31st August (or for Nursery, P1 and S & L, the appropriate date your transition takes place on).

We hope to see a more normal school year ahead and having our school community back together, looking forward to successfully working together and having the opportunities that have been missed in the last couple of years. The summer term, with the return of school trips, school celebrations and our sports day were long overdue and this year we look forward to seeing (and hearing!) the school choir, school band and school shows up and running again.

****REMINDER** Covid-19**

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD A CHILD BE SENT TO SCHOOL IF THEY, OR ANYONE LIVING IN THEIR FAMILY HOME DISPLAY ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS:

- High temperature or fever
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss of or change in sense of taste or smell

Just as a reminder, should your child be unwell with vomiting, diarrhoea or any other common illness, contact the school to be advised how long they should remain at home until they can return.

Communication

Please ensure that, if you have recently moved or changed phone numbers, that the office have your most recent contact details. If you have a concern or need to speak directly to a member of staff, please contact the school office on 02871 343864 or email us at bguthrie493@c2kni.net. As I am sure you understand, no parent can just 'pop in' for a chat in the morning with the teacher.

It is important that if your child has an appointment or will be late in/ going home early, you send a written note to school to allow us to keep an accurate record of pupil attendance.

Arrival at school

Vehicular access is from the car park at the Nelson Drive entrance, for those parents who need to park up and escort pupils into school. There are a limited number of parking spaces available on the school site with access from the Limavady Road. We would ask parents to consider the needs of parents with the younger pupils-Nursery and Foundation Stage (P1 & P2), as well as those pupils with special needs. The majority of the cars accessing the school site should be for 'drop-off' only.

School pod doors will open from 8:40am. **Pupils should line up outside their pod doors, in an organised way, as they would at the end of break/ lunch time.** They should not be running around the playground or using any trim trail or play equipment prior to school starting.

To still continue to limit footfall on site, we would request that only one parent/ guardian walk the pupil to the school building, unless as a family, it makes it more convenient for parents to share 'dropping off' at different pod doors. Pupils in P3-P7 should be able to manage moving to their pod door without a parent- no parent should need to come through the lower playground gate.

We request that P1-P2 parents do not enter classroom pods to engage in discussion with teachers. This is a crucial time of the day for staff and pupils to ensure a smooth start to the school day.

Staff will continue to meet pupils, particularly at the lower end of school, at the pod doors and will provide handwashing facilities on entry to each classroom.

Should your child have been unwell within the last 24 hours, it is **IMPERATIVE** that they **DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL** until fully recovered in order to minimise the risk to others.

****REMINDER- SCHOOL TIMES (Friday only)** IMPORTANT CHANGE**

ON A FRIDAY, SCHOOL WILL FINISH FOR ALL PRIMARY PUPILS (P1-P7) AT 2:00PM.

One routine from Covid that school will maintain is the finish time on a Friday, 2:00PM for every pupil. This was discussed at length at a Board of Governor meeting towards the end of June 2022, and governors were in full agreement.

To ensure school pupils receive the correct amount of teaching time, the start to the school day will be 8:50AM.

There are a number of advantages to this finish time for pupils. Most importantly, it means that the class teacher will be the class teacher throughout the week, with no need to use other staff as cover to provide teacher preparation and planning time (part of their contract agreement). Friday afternoons will be used by all teaching staff to effectively plan with their year group colleague and ensure continuity and progression in learning and teaching, as well as ensure effective assessment, monitoring and evaluation of the teaching completed during that week.

The Nursery Unit will continue to start and finish at its planned daily times. School will operate normal start and finish times on Monday-Thursday (P1-P2 finish at 2:00pm, P3-P7 finish at 3:00pm)

Home time

I would ask parents to have the continued patience and consider where and how they park for collecting pupils. I have been very appreciative of the parents who have been so considerate over the changes to this in the past two years and look forward to the vast majority's continued support. No parent cars should move down the side of school (P4 & P2 area) towards the Nursery. This is where pupils exit to and should only be used for staff parking.

Pastoral Support

As a school, we will continue to make use of the school PATHS programme and ensure its relevance throughout all year groups to pastorally support pupils on their return to school this year. We have plans in place to continue our facilitated counsellor sessions for pupils. We just await the confirmed funding from DE before we survey parents, as this will have a direct impact on what we can offer.

School Dinners

School dinners are available from Wednesday 31st August. A new menu has been developed, following the survey sent in June by the Foyle HUB Catering team.

If you feel you may be entitled to free school meals but have not yet applied, please ensure you do so, through the EANI website-Parents-Free School Meals. Remember, this has to be done by the parent annually-having had previously does not mean it carries through to the next academic year.

For all pupils wishing to have a school dinner, whether paying or free school meals, the booking needs to be done no later than the previous day. The system closes off at 11:59pm the day previous. A large number of calls come into the school office in the morning from parents who have forgotten to book dinners. There are many vital jobs needing completed within the office in the morning and I trust we can have the valued support of our parents in ensuring they have their child's dinner booked at the appropriate time.

We have not been informed of any increase in price by EA, so school meals should continue to be £2.60 for this year.

School 'Wrap-Around' services

Our Breakfast Club service will make a welcome return, week beginning Monday 5th September. Breakfast items can be purchased from 8:00am, with last serving at 8:30am. Only pupils accessing breakfast in school should come to the hall at this time. Classroom assistants will supervise this breakfast club, with pupils being taken to class at 8:40am.

Our After Schools Club will not be in operation on our first three days back, Wednesday 31st August-Friday 2nd September.

Week beginning Monday 5th September, we will have our After School supervision club in operation.

Week beginning Monday 12th September, we should have our range of clubs up and running.

Booking for after schools club must be done by 8:00pm on the Thursday night of the week before the service is required. This is vital to ensure that we can accurately plan on the Friday and place the correct number of staff with particular group sizes of pupils. In previous years, there have been many occasions where we have had quite large numbers of parents requesting the service on the week, or even the day when required. This then creates issues with staffing. Please ensure bookings are completed at the appropriate time.

We are very conscious of the financial pressures that are currently facing many families with the continued increase in the cost of living. We are currently reviewing our after school costs, with the plan to make a small reduction in cost. Although we still cannot access extended schools funding and we have to pay the external facilitators used for many of our clubs, we hope our parents can see some value in this during the course of the year. Booking should hopefully be available from Wednesday 1st September.

'ALL IN THIS TOGETHER' #TEAMEBRINGTON

I would, again, like to thank all those parents who have engaged so well with our remote learning and teaching. Hopefully, this will be the end of it on a long term scale. Obviously, it will still be our mechanism to learning in the event of a bubble closure

It is essential that we can all work together and be respectful to each other to ensure the continued success of all involved with #Team Ebrington.

Kind regards

Mr Guthrie