

Dear Parent,

26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Thank you all for how you managed the shutdown of schools over the last few months. Every family had very different circumstances to navigate; appreciation to all parents and children.

Re-opening of schools

Thank you for your patience in awaiting information from school. The following information has been ready to upload several times during the last week, then a further announcement is made and it's changed again! No doubt this will continue to be the case over the summer. Please also be aware that school reopening is a hot topic in the media, therefore please keep an eye on our website for how announcements might affect this school.

The Department of Education published New School Day guidance for the reopening of schools in August/ September 2020 on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

This guidance is very much 'agile' as there could be changes in either direction between now and September; restrictions could be further imposed or further relaxed, in which case there will likely be changes to the following information.

Please be assured that it is very much the aim and desire of the *Governors* and staff to have all the children back in school as soon as possible.

In consideration of the guidance the main points of note are

- The aim to resume face to face teaching for as many pupils as possible for the maximum amount of time possible.
- In doing so, ensure that all actions are carried out when and how it is safe to do so for both staff and pupils, using one metre social distancing between pupils, where possible, and two metres social distancing between staff and pupils and staff to staff.
- Please remember that in the main the information given to schools is guidance, it is very much up to each school to use the resources available to them to try and facilitate as

Principal: Mrs P McAlister  
email: [pmcalister824@c2kni.net](mailto:pmcalister824@c2kni.net)

Tel: 02887725102  
[www.bushprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.bushprimaryschool.co.uk)

many children as possible returning on a full time basis, this includes both personnel and physical space. There will be variations between all schools.

Our restart plan includes operational and logistic changes which will require a level of flexibility from both staff and parents. Some of these may only be necessary for the short term. *The journey back to normality for the education system will not be one where schools operate on a business as usual basis. Department of Education June 2020*

The Board of Governors and staff have considered the guidance and agreed the following-

School will reopen for staff on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August, please phone then if you have any queries about restart, but check the website first as the information you need might be on it. School email for the summer is [info@bush.dungannon.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@bush.dungannon.ni.sch.uk) should you require help with an urgent query.

School will reopen for pupils, week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> August on a phased basis, 9am - 12.30. **The day and date your child should attend is shown on the Home Learning page of our website.** Children Nursery to P6, will only attend for one day during this week. P7 will be split into two groups, Group 1 Monday, Group 2 Tuesday and both groups together Wednesday, Thursday & Friday. Password- Bush2020. Remember to look in the year group your child will be in, September 2020. Some parents have already shown through the September plan return that their child is not able to attend this week. Teachers are aware of this, so there is no need to contact us again. Remember, if you are travelling abroad you must observe all quarantine regulations which may in place at that time.

During the week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> August, the small numbers each day will enable staff to familiarise the children with the routines and procedures of return and also give opportunity to support the children generally with the return after such a long absence.

Children should wear normal school uniform and the only items to be brought to school are the items requested for P2 - P7 and a small snack.

P2 - P7 pupils should bring the following items on the first day of return; pencils, pens, rubber, sharpener, colouring pencils, felt tips, glue stick, ruler, small hand sanitiser. These items will be placed in your child's individual named tub and not used by anyone else.

Tissues, scissors, mathematical equipment and white boards will be provided by school. All items will remain in school. No pencil cases please and no school items are required for Nursery or P1. (P1 should bring a snack)

Principal: Mrs P McAlister  
email: [pmcalister824@c2kni.net](mailto:pmcalister824@c2kni.net)

Tel: 02887725102  
[www.bushprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.bushprimaryschool.co.uk)

Children will enter and leave the building as shown below.

P4 Classroom Exit door accessed from playground

P5 Classroom Exit door accessed from playground

P1 Classroom Exit door from side of school at front

P2 Classroom Exit door from side of school at front

P7 Hall Door off playground

P3 & P6 main front door

As some children will be entering and leaving from the playground, parking for parents is only allowed on the side next to the Nursery Building.

#### **Further points to note**

The strap line, 'We must all do it to get through it,' has been widely used throughout the pandemic. This continues to be a very important factor in the organisation of and preparation for the return to school.

All arrangements for start-up which have been drawn up, are for the welfare of all in our school community; understanding of and acceptance of these procedures and arrangements is expected from all - staff, pupils, parents & carers. Following the guidance from the Department of Education an addendum will be made to our Discipline Policy in August for COVID 19 related incidents.

If the virus should continue to circulate there may be times of staff shortage and potential infection in a particular year group. In such cases it may be necessary to contact parents of a particular class to request that all self-isolate and indeed also that there are no staff available for that year group on a particular day and as a result, children cannot attend. Parents should have alternative arrangements in place which can be utilised at short notice. The school will follow all advice and guidance from the PHA and Department of Education in this regard.

We have drawn up our restart plan on the basis that each class will be managed as a 'protective bubble.' This is to limit interaction with other classes and adults within the school.

**To maintain 'protective bubbles,' Parents/ carers** are NOT permitted to enter the school building, except in exceptional, pre -arranged circumstances. Parents/ carers should ensure correct social distancing at all times and not congregate at gates/ exit points. Leaving P1 and P2 to the classroom exit door where they will be greeted by staff should alleviate any worries or anxiety.

**Illness** Children who are ill must not be sent to school. Children who present as ill during the school day will have their temperature checked using a non -contact thermometer and where necessary moved to a separate area and the parent/carer contacted. All parents must provide a contact number for someone who can collect a child within an appropriate time frame of being contacted.

**Communication** All communication will be by text message/ and or the school web-site and school app. Parents must ensure they can access these means of communication.

**Money** No cash will be accepted in school. Information about an online payment system will be sent out in August. PayPoint can also be used through this system.

**Preparation** Work with your child(ren) over the summer to develop their awareness of social distancing, thorough handwashing and correct management of coughs and sneezes and the proper use of a tissue. Children who wear glasses should come to school with them 'clean.'

**Meals** Initially, we will not have hot school meals. Children must be able to open and manage all packed lunch items individually. The initial plan is that children entitled to Free School Meals will have a packed lunch provided by the Cook, this may change by September.

**Transport** The Education Authority has not given details of transport but if they require space on the bus to maintain social distancing I would expect that they will not provide for 'concessionary' places, especially those children who avail of transport to the Elms in the afternoon at 3pm.

**Start date** From Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September, children should arrive between 8.30am and 8.45am and go directly to their classroom through the designated door. School will start at 8.45am.

**Start and Finish time** change. As the focus will be to keep each class group in a 'protective bubble' throughout the school day with designated class break and lunch times to limit as far as possible contact between groups. Break and Lunch times will be shortened to allow each class to have an allocated slot. Coupled with the earlier start time, this is the reason for the earlier finish time.

**During week beginning Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September we will continue to reintegrate some class groups on a phased basis. (Monday is a Bank Holiday)**

<p>Primary 1 &amp; Primary 2</p> <p>P1 &amp; P2 children should bring wellingtons to school, these should be left in school. All should bring a waterproof coat every day.</p>	<p>Groups who attended the previous week on Monday, Tuesday &amp; Wednesday should attend on Tuesday &amp; Wednesday this week 8.30/8.45 - 1.15 pm including lunch.</p> <p>Groups who attended the previous week on Thursday and Friday should attend on Thursday &amp; Friday this week 8.30/8.45 - 1.15pm including lunch.</p>
<p>Primary 3</p>	<p>Groups who attended the previous week on Monday, Tuesday &amp; Wednesday should attend on Tuesday &amp; Wednesday this week 8.30/8.45 - 1.45pm including lunch.</p> <p>Groups who attended the previous week on Thursday and Friday should attend on Thursday &amp; Friday this week 8.30/8.45 - 1.45pm including lunch.</p>
<p>Primary 4 &amp; 5</p>	<p>Groups who attended the previous week on Monday, Tuesday &amp; Wednesday should attend on Tuesday &amp; Wednesday this week 8.30/8.45 - 2pm including lunch.</p> <p>Groups who attended the previous week on Thursday and Friday should attend on Thursday &amp; Friday this week 8.30/8.45 - 2pm including lunch.</p>
<p>Primary 6 &amp; 7</p>	<p>All pupils should attend all days as normal, 8.30/8.45 to 2pm.</p>

Going forward from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September we plan to have all classes P3 -P7 returning in as close to 'normal' as possible, albeit with the new start times. Finish times will be reviewed at the start of September. **If social distancing** regulations remain as at present, we **may face** some challenges in managing this in P1 & P2. However, we have very experienced staff and several plans to work through for these two year groups and social distancing regulations appear to change in relation to schools on a daily basis.

**Early morning and afterschool care** Due to the separation between groups and the protective bubble strategy we are not in a position to offer either of these facilities at the start of September.

I fully appreciate how lengthy this letter is but wanted to provide as much information as is possible at this stage. These plans may well change if the one metre social distancing regulation changes. However, even if this regulation is relaxed we will not amend the plans for week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> August or possibly even week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> September; it is important that the children have a small focus group return to school.

On behalf of all the staff and governors I wish you a pleasant summer.

Yours sincerely

Pauline McAlister

Principal

Principal: Mrs P McAlister  
email: [pmcalister824@c2kni.net](mailto:pmcalister824@c2kni.net)

Tel: 02887725102  
[www.bushprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.bushprimaryschool.co.uk)