

11th June 2020

Dear Parent,

I hope you are all well.

Thank you for all the work you have been doing with your child(ren) through home learning. (The last set of work will be posted Monday 15th June.) I fully appreciate that for many this has been combined with your own working from home and other responsibilities and caring duties. We have been so fortunate to have had such lovely weather and I hope you and your families were able to enjoy lots of outdoor time. I have heard of children learning to bake and cook, gardening, learning to ride a bike, learning to tie shoe laces and the list goes on, of many super achievements! I would also like to thank the staff who very quickly adopted to a completely different way of working. School has been closed to the majority of pupils but staff have attended in line with regulations to continue all the various aspects of their work.

As yet, schools in Northern Ireland await instruction from the Department of Education regarding the restart of schools in September. I'm sure you have all been anxious about the implications of what you have heard through the media over recent weeks.

I am conscious that time is marching on and you as parents and we as governors and staff need to put plans in place, so to that end I am writing to give you as much information as I can at this point. Please be assured that as soon as I know more I will let you know.

September 2020 Teaching compliment

Nursery	Mrs Cruise during Mrs Ferguson's maternity leave
P1	Mrs Moore
P2	Mrs Cuddy

P3	Mrs Talbot
P4	Mrs Patterson (Monday - Thursday) Mrs Girvan Friday
P5	Miss Bartley
P6	Mrs Thompson
P7	Mrs McKenzie (Vice principal)
Principal	Mrs McAlister

School will open for all pupils on a part- time basis in September, possibly even slightly earlier for P7. This is to enable schools to manage social distancing with smaller numbers. Part time means sometime in school and some remote learning at home. Our initial plan is to have family groups attending on the same day as far as possible. (number dependent) The break- down of this, e.g. maximum numbers of pupils per day and how many days in school each week and how many at home, I have not been told yet, but please start to think of child care arrangements to manage this, if you work. Could you join up with a relative/ another family and share days for instance. I will be asking all parents, shortly, to complete a form through our school app to get a clearer picture about some areas, including would the start of the week or the latter end of the week best suit your working pattern, I will also be asking about your home Wifi and internet access. Please download our free school app to your smart phone, computer or tablet. Search Bush PS in the app store. Going forward this will be one of our main methods of communicating with you. This app will have various features on it and is continuing to be expanded. In 'forms' you can notify us of your child's absence and it also has a homework submission form, simply take a photo and submit.

Please also check our school website www.bushprimaryschool.co.uk regularly.

Cashless

Arrangements are being finalised for an online payment system which we will use from September. I will forward the details of this to you shortly.

Principal: Mrs P McAlister
email: pmcalister824@c2kni.net

Tel: 02887725102
www.bushprimaryschool.co.uk

Resources

When children return, we must reduce the number of items being brought to and from school and limit the sharing of resources. All children will have an individual desk and a named tray on their desk to keep pencils etc in. It would be helpful if each child P2 - P7 could bring the following items on the first day of return; pencils, pens, rubber, sharpener, colouring pencils, felt tips, glue stick, ruler, small hand sanitiser. Tissues, scissors, mathematical equipment and white boards will be provided by school. All items will remain in school. No pencil cases please and no items are required for Nursery or P1.

Reports

These will be posted out towards the end of June and in the main are written to reflect your child's school year to the 20th March.

June arrangements

P1 - P7 School will be open for the collection of books and any other items left behind in March at the following times, if you would like to call for them. Please park in the car park, enter through the playground gate and through the Fire Doors at the top of the hall. We may restrict numbers at times. Much as we would love to see the children, please do not bring them to school or if you have to, they must stay in the car.

Monday 22nd June 9.30 - 10.30 and 1.30 - 2.30pm

Tuesday 23rd June 9.30 - 10.30 and 1.30 - 2.30pm **Nursery open on this day also**

Thursday 25th June 9.30 - 10.30 and 1.30 - 2.30pm

There are no books etc to be collected for P3; they took all home in March.

There is a table for each class in the Hall and each child's items are sitting individually. If you would like to return some or all of the work your child has completed at home, leave it in a named bag, in the space from where you lift your child's books. The items we have left for you will have been sitting untouched for two weeks; please do not touch anyone else's packs and maintain social distancing at all times.

P7

We are unable to say farewell to our P7 pupils as we would normally do however I am trying to make some plans for a short farewell to each P7 pupil (**and one parent**) I have sought advice

and guidance about how to do this from the PSNI so as not to break any regulations; the provisional date and time is Monday 29th June at 11am. More details later! Hopefully!

Mrs Archer

Mrs Archer our Building Supervisor /Caretaker is retiring at the end of June. We wish Mrs Archer a long, happy and healthy retirement. Obviously, again, we can't say farewell and thank you as we normally would but we will do so at a later date. Mrs Archer has been with us in Bush from 1998.

Miss Weir

Miss Weir retired from our school kitchen as Cook in Charge in December; we will say a thank you to Christine at a later date also. Mrs Coney, who covered during Christine's absence has assumed this position in a permanent capacity.

Summer contact email

The teachers have very much enjoyed receiving your emails but can I ask that from Friday 26th June you please use the following email address if you need to contact school?

info@bush.dungannon.ni.sch.uk

In conclusion, several parents have asked about children coming to school to give end of year gifts to staff. Unfortunately, this isn't possible due to the regulations; this gesture is always appreciated but certainly never expected! Indeed, you have been your child's teacher for the last several weeks! We are also very aware of the present financial situation. The staff have asked me to relay their thanks to you for the many lovely messages which they have received from you.

Yours sincerely,

Pauline McAlister

Principal