** St. Laurence O’Toole’s P.S.**

# 31 Main Street Belleeks Newry Co. Down BT35 7PH

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Dear Parents/Carers

September 17, 2020

We would like again to take this opportunity to congratulate our pupils on how well they have adapted to the new school routines and would also like to thank each and every one of you for your support and co-operation in helping us implement these new COVID-19 procedures to ensure a safe return for our whole school community. We realise that the year ahead will present many challenges, due to the unprecedented times we are living in. However, if we continue to co-operate, work in partnership and strive to do the best we can, we will be successful in providing our pupils with stimulating educational experiences.

In line with our safety-first approach, if your child is unwell, we would advise that you keep them off school until they feel better. We realise that this will present challenges to families, but feel it is in the best interests of the whole school community if we can reduce transmissions of illnesses in the school. You may wish to consult your GP if you are unsure as to whether your child should be in school or not. We, unfortunately, are unable to provide medical advice. It is vitally important that if your child or a member of your household displays any symptoms of Coronavirus that they do not come to school and you follow PHA advice and arrange a COVID-19 test if this is required. Please keep the school informed by a telephone call on the first day of absence and regularly thereafter. If a child arrives in school and is ill, parents will be contacted to take their child home. We have posted leaflets advising the same on our website.

Dinners/Lunches

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, you should ensure that EANI have processed your application. From 14th September you will be charged for your child’s dinner if we have not received notification from the Board denoting that your child is entitled to FSM. It is very important that you register your child(ren) for free school meals even if they take lunch as our school receives additional funding from the Department of Education for children who are eligible for free school meals.

Children who take lunch are now permitted to bring their lunch in a lunch box/bag which is labelled and which can be cleaned every day. They no longer need to use disposable bags. Children may also take their water bottles home daily – these should also be clearly labelled.

Homework

We are planning to begin homework activities week beginning 28th September. Pupils in classes Primary 2 to Primary 7 will complete reading, spelling, numberfacts/tables, New Wave English and Maths and Grow in Love activities. We will be utilising the Home Learning Tab on the school website for the Grow in Love activity initially. Children will also have access to other online forums such as Accelerated Reader, IXL and Studyladder. Plastic folders will be used to transport homework to and from school weekly as these can be wiped down easily. The children will receive a pack of materials to cover a period of time. Each Friday they will need to remove that week’s work from the pack and return it to school where it will be quarantined and marked.

Reading

P2/P3 - One book will be sent home each Monday to remain at home and be returned in their plastic wallet with the homework activities on Friday. An additional book will be read during guided reading sessions in school each week.

P4/P7 – Guided reading sessions will be held in school throughout the week. No guided reading books will be sent home. However, children will be given accelerated reader books which will remain at home until they are finished. When your child has finished that book and completed the online quiz please return it to school that Friday in their plastic folder with other homework activities. To access accelerated reader online quizzes children have usernames and passwords for the following link: <https://ukhosted75.renlearn.co.uk/2235293>

Staggered Arrival/Collection times

We thank you again for your cooperation with the drop-off and arrival times. Mrs. McGrath has uploaded a separate letter to our Reception/Primary 1 children with the new arrangements for the week beginning 28th September. All arrival times remain the same and below are is a reminder of collection times for all pupils from 28th September.

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| --- | --- |
| Collection times | |
| Reception | 11:50am |
| Primary 1 | 1:50pm |
| Primary 2/3 | 1:55pm |
| Primary 4/5 | 2:50pm |
| Primary 6/7 | 2:55pm |

We will hold children inside the school gates until you come for them. If you wish your child to walk home/to your cars, please provide a note to school giving your permission for them to do so. We would appreciate it if you could ensure that your child(ren) is/are collected promptly at collection times and that they know how or with whom they are going home. Again we would like to stress the importance of Health and Safety at Hometime in particular. School is situated on a busy road and we would again ask you to refrain from parking on the yellow zig-zag lines located at the school gates. It is also important that everyone adhere to social distancing guidelines at these Drop Off/Collection times.

Flu Vaccination

The date for the Flu Vaccination in our school has been set for

Monday 28th September the date they return from our first annual break.

Home School Links

As you are aware, if you need to speak to a member of staff please contact the school and leave a message with Mrs. McVerry. Your teacher/staff member will then contact you as soon as possible. Parent Teacher meetings have been arranged for November and more details about actual dates and times will be issued later in the Term. Can we once again remind you of the importance of visiting our website regularly to ensure that you are up to date with all new updates and information.

School will be closing at 1pm for all children tomorrow. The staggered collection times to accommodate this are as follows:

P1 pupils must be collected at normal time. (Siblings of P1s may be collected at this time also)

P2/3 and P4/5 pupils must be collected at 12:50

P6/7 pupils must be collected at 12:55

They will depart from the gates that they are currently using.

School reopens on Monday 28th September.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish Good Luck to the Belleeks GAC Senior football team in the County Final on Saturday 19th September. Many of our past pupils are on the team and we sincerely hope they come home the Victors. The children are invited to wear anything green/white or orange tomorrow on a non-uniform day to mark the occasion.

Yours sincerely,

B. Friel (Principal)