



Dear Parents,

It has been wonderful to welcome back all of our pupils to Drumahoe P.S. this week. They have brought smiles, laughter and learning back into our school building! The pupils so far have made a wonderful start to the term and shown great adaptability and resilience to their new routines and new ways of learning which is most encouraging for us all.

Unfortunately, the weather hasn't been as encouraging this week on occasions and I would like you to be aware that, in the case of inclement weather, the children will still have to remain outside until their designated start time (P1 & P2 - 08:45; P3 & P4 – 09:00 & P5 –P7 – 09:15).

I am therefore requesting that the children have their coats on in the morning as all available staff are engaged in other areas taking temperatures and admitting other children into their 'Class Bubbles' which means we cannot allow 'early children' to enter the building unsupervised.

N.B. Where there are siblings, we would ask that they all arrive in the morning at the eldest child's later slot but are picked up at their own designated time in the afternoon. (P1 & P2 – 13:45; P3 – 14:15; P4 – 14:30 & P5 –P7 – 15:00).

It has been also noted that a few children have arrived up to 30 minutes before their designated class start time. I appreciate the challenges of staggered start times; however, this has become a new norm across all the schools of N. Ireland.

I must strongly ask that children do not arrive before their scheduled start time. There is no available adult supervision on the school site and no possibility to admit them into the building earlier if children arrive before their designated start time. As the weather gets colder, wetter and the mornings darker, I would urge all parents to ensure their children are arriving at their scheduled start time. I would appeal for your full co-operation here in the interest of the children's health and well-being.

We want our welcome at Drumahoe P.S. to remain as warm and as friendly as ever, however these are steps that we need to take to protect our whole school community at present. Importantly, parents are not to enter the school building unless by scheduled appointment. The children will be led to their room by the staff each morning and I would kindly ask that parents do not come into the school buildings at any time during the school day.

Car Parking

P1 & P2 classes will arrive at 8.45 a.m. and classes will finish at 1.45 p.m. For those P1 & P2 pupils who travel to school & home by car, please use the MUGA Car Park for both drop off and pick up purposes.

P3 classes will arrive at 9.00 a.m. and classes will finish at 2.15 p.m. For those P3 pupils who travel to school & home by car, please use the Main School Car Park for both drop off and pick up purposes.

P4 classes will arrive at 9.00 a.m. and classes will finish at 2.30 p.m. For those P4 pupils who travel to school & home by car, please use the Main School Car Park for both drop off and pick up purposes.

P5 & P6 classes will arrive at 9.15 a.m. and classes will finish at 3.00 p.m. For those P5 & P6 pupils who travel to school & home by car, please use the Main School Car Park for both drop off and pick up purposes.

P7 classes will arrive at 9.15 a.m. and classes will finish at 3.00 p.m. For those P7 pupils (inc. those who have siblings) who travel to school & home by car, please use the Play Park/MUGA Car Park for both drop off and pick up purposes.

Any pupils who normally walk home will exit the school via the pedestrian path/gate and should always avail of the School Crossing Patrols if having to cross the Drumahoe Road.

Bringing Items to School

The school has provided plastic wallets/personal containers for each pupil and this holds their books and personal resources for their sole use which the school has supplied. Children should by now have brought in a pencil case and this will remain in school. Under current guidance there will be no sharing of resources within the classroom. School bags will not be required in school and the only thing which should be transported daily from home is the packed lunch bag. Children should refrain from bringing anything else into school due to the risk of transmitting the virus.

If there is a specific need for a personal item eg. medicine, inhaler, epipen, etc, this must be discussed with the either the Class Teacher or Principal/Vice-Principal and these may be kept safely in an appropriate place during the school day if appropriate /necessary. Children should not bring in toys, balls, show & tell items, phones etc. as this goes totally against DE Guidelines.

Lunch Arrangements:

The lunch arrangements currently remain under review but presently we kindly ask that only those entitled to Free School Meals use the School Meals Service and all other pupils continue to bring a packed lunch. A copy of the school menu for pupils who are entitled to Free School Meals is available under “News” on our App & Website.

As previously stated, we would prefer all other children not entitled to Free School Meals to avail of their own packed lunch option, but anyone requesting a packed lunch prepared through the School Meals Kitchen (£2.60 per day) should book their meal option through the iPayimpact App and pay accordingly.

Thank you for your ongoing support and co-operation and here’s to another great week next week!



T R McMaster - Principal