



DRUMAHOE PRIMARY SCHOOL

31 Drumahoe Road
Drumahoe
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21st April 2021

Dear Parent

You will be aware that in early March 2021 the Executive published the document [“*Moving Forward: The Executive’s Pathway Out of Restrictions*”](#). This provides a strategic plan for the easing of restrictions in a cautious and staged approach in order to avoid a cycle of restrictions.

In education, we have now thankfully reached the point where the school has reopened for all pupils and we are now in Stage 3 of the Executive’s plan for the easing of education restrictions, which is described as a “gradual easing phase”.

As a school, we will continue to seek to ease restrictions wherever possible, however this can only be done having taken full account of the relevant public health advice.

As restrictions have been gradually eased, the school has sought to prioritise the core curriculum activities within schools. This has meant that pupils are now able to enjoy the majority, but not all, of the educational activities that would have been available before the pandemic, provided that the Guidance is adhered to and the appropriate mitigations are in place.

There are some activities that have not yet been able to resume, and I would ask for your patience as we have to allow time for public health staff to monitor and analyse the ever changing epidemiological picture to ensure that we are able to respond in a timely and measured way. This will allow us to steadily progress along the Executive’s pathway in a sustainable manner, while doing all that we can to ensure we all remain safe.

In the context of continuing to seek to make measured relaxations in line with public health advice, I can now provide you with an update on the review of the school’s position in relation to a few areas.

We received updated [DE Guidance on Wednesday 14th April 2021](#) with regard to the resumption of WRAPAROUND CARE, OUTDOOR SCHOOL SPORTS AND SINGING/MUSIC PROVISION which made reference to After-School Clubs, Breakfast Clubs and some outdoor after-school activities etc.

I wish to inform you that the Senior Management Team in school have met to discuss the latest Guidance and has reviewed measures that would need to be put in place to

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ensure the safety of all pupils and staff for the different activities referenced by the Minister of Education.

Many factors were taken into account if we were to proceed with the activities mentioned, including a pathway to maintain 'bubbles' within school, social distancing rules and adequate supervision arrangements.

At this moment in time we have not had a single positive case of any pupil being tested positive for COVID-19 during term time and I want to thank everyone for the massive effort in making our school a safe place.

Special mention must be made to Robin Gardiner and his staff for their meticulous cleaning of the school as well as the Teaching and Non-Teaching staff for their attention to detail in terms of promoting good hygiene behaviour such as ensuring pupils sanitise and wash their hands regularly, taking temperatures, encouraging social distancing, following good respiratory hygiene by opening windows as often as possible to increase ventilation while recognising the need to maintain a comfortable room temperature.

The review of our existing arrangements has resulted in the following changes as we strive to bring some normality back to school life in Drumahoe P.S.:

Review of Start and Finish Times

In line with continued DE direction, all children will continue arrive to school until further notice with the following reviewed staggered start and finish times which are still determined by the Year Group that they are in and also the different entrances that they use. Use of staggered arrival times, using marked drop-off areas (footprints) and asking parents to remain on or outside the school grounds, where possible, will continue to help with limiting interactions.

These revised staggered times are to ensure there is no mass gathering or congestion outside the school building each morning and afternoon. As pupils arrive at school, we must ensure that our arrangements provide for avoidance of any such congestion and large gatherings of children and parents near the school gates or entrance areas to the building. Parents are respectfully requested to adhere to these arrangements otherwise we will revise them without hesitation.

At both arrival and collection times, parents are strongly discouraged from entering the school buildings as a means of preventing spread of the virus. **If parents must enter the school buildings, they must do so by making an appointment through the**

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Front Office (028-71302284) and appropriate hygiene measures must be in place ie. wearing a face covering.

Each class has been designated an entry/exit door (see Appendix 1) and an arrival/departure time.

From 26.04.21- P1 & P2 classes will now arrive at **8.40 a.m.** and classes will finish at **2.00 p.m.** **If you are arriving by car, P1/2 parents should use the MUGA Car Park to both drop off and pick up.**

From 26.04.21- P3 classes will now arrive at **8.50 a.m.** and classes will finish at **2.30 p.m.** **If you are arriving by car, P3 parents should use the Main School Car Park for drop off and pick up.**

From 26.04.21- P4 classes will now arrive at **8.50 a.m.** and classes will finish at **2.45 p.m.** **If you are arriving by car, P4 parents should use the Main School Car Park for drop off and pick up.**

From 26.04.21- P5 - P7 classes will now arrive at **9.00 a.m.** and classes will continue to finish at **3.00 p.m.** **If you are arriving by car, P5 & P6 parents should use the Main School Car Park and P7's should use the MUGA Car Park for both drop off and pick up.**

It is still strongly recommended that all pupils wear a face covering on all dedicated school transport including buses and taxis where it is appropriate for them to do so.

These arrangements will allow the classes to arrive and enter school before the next classes arrive etc and also ensure that all pupils are now in class by 9.00 a.m.

N.B. Where there are siblings, we would still ask that they arrive in the morning at the later slot together but are picked up at the designated times in the afternoon.

Review of Breakfast Club – due to issues with maintaining adequate mitigations and staffing requirements, the Breakfast Club will remain paused until advised otherwise.

Review of Visits - Educational visits remain paused until advised otherwise.

Review of Extra-Curricular School Sports - Inter-school sporting activities remain paused until advised otherwise, however, we will be resuming some extra-curricular sports from 3.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. from week commencing Monday 26th April 2021. Further details will be issued separately once we have these confirmed.

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Review of Kadet Klub - The After-School facility (Kadet Klub & 2-3 Klub) is now in operation albeit with diminished demand. We accept that many parents are either still 'furloughed' or working from home and therefore do not rely on this service as much as they did in the past. However, the school cannot afford to be running the Kadet Klub at a loss and will therefore not be operating after 4.00 p.m. from Tuesday 4th May 2021 (Closed – 03.05.21 – May Day). There will be no 'Summer Scheme' operating this year due to the prevailing circumstances.

Thanking you in anticipation of your continued co-operation with these important matters as we attempt to re-establish our normal routines back into school.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

T R McMaster B.Ed. MBE
Principal.