

Happy children;
learning and achieving together.



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22 June 2020

Dear Parent,

I am sure that many of you will be beginning to wonder about a number of things looking ahead to the summer and beyond. As you will be aware, the Dept of Education released guidance to schools on Friday 19th June. This will take a significant amount of time to work through, still requires a great number of questions to be answered and will require Board of Governors' approval. There will be much rumour about what other schools are doing—I would urge you not to engage with rumours. Ultimately, we need to provide solutions that will be workable for our school, in our local context and it is not going to be a case of every school having identical approaches to reopening.

Some other items:

1. Reports—these will be available for parents to collect from the school on Tuesday 30th June, more details to follow this week.
2. Items required for the new school year—a list of items that your child will require for August/September will, as usual, be enclosed with school reports.
3. School Uniform—there is some debate on whether children will be wearing uniform or their own clothes upon return to school. We are still unsure about this, so I would suggest that you don't rush to buy uniform at this stage. We will communicate to you over the summer, any decision in this regard. We have a uniform selling day scheduled in school for Monday 24th August, but this may be subject to change as we get more information.
4. School Meals—it still remains uncertain at this stage what form school meals will take.
5. Zoom Meetings/teaching—once more we are unsure as to the extent of the 'blended learning' approach suggested by the Education Minister. At this point the school would not be equipped for Zoom teaching or similar, but we hope that some clarity will come from the Dept of Education about this in the coming weeks.
6. Morning/Afternoon Clubs—at this stage we are unsure about the availability of these. As lockdown restrictions are eased and assuming that the rate of COVID-19 infections continues to fall, there may be the scope to reopen these in some form. We understand that this will be an inconvenience for some parents, who have relied on these clubs in the past, but we must consider the overall health of our school community.
7. School website—we will continue to update the website as decisions are made and we would ask that you keep an eye on it for updates. Some children will not have been able to get all the work in the Pupil Packs completed. If this is the case, the pointers and suggestions given on class webpages will remain available for the summer period for you to refer back to.
8. New Year 1 Pupils—for those parents who will be new to the school, I would urge you to keep an eye on the website and FaceBook page in the coming weeks. We will hope to have some sort of induction meeting, if subsequent guidance allows. Alternatively, we will simply have to send you out materials.

This covers a few possible areas of concern of parents and we ask that you are patient with us as we try to negotiate our way through the guidance. The guidance is likely to evolve and we do not wish to make snap decisions just yet, given that reopening is still some 9 weeks away. By that stage, so many current recommendations could be outdated and to have a rigid plan at this stage would be somewhat premature.

Yours sincerely,
A Armstrong
Principal