

Dromara Primary School



2020–2021

'Happy children;

learning and achieving together.'

36 Hillsborough Road, Dromara, Co. Down, BT 25 2BL

Phone/Fax: 028 9753 2875

Website: www.dromaraps.org

Email: info@dromaraps.org

Staff 2020-21

Mr A Armstrong	Principal
Mrs H Milligan	Vice-Principal/Year 6 Teacher
Mrs C Price	Year 1 Teacher
Miss V Briggs	Year 2 Teacher
Mrs K Irvine	Year 3 Teacher
Mrs R Vaughan	Year 4 Teacher (Mon-Wed)
Mrs J Reain	Year 4 Teacher (Thu-Fri)
	Year 7 Teacher (Mon-Tue)
Mr B Bovis	Year 5 Teacher
Mrs F Collins	Year 7 Teacher (Wed-Fri)
Mrs G Burns	Learning Support Teacher (LST)
Secretary:	Mrs H Watson
Classroom Assistants:	Mrs V Bennett, Mrs D Davison, Mrs J Dawson, Miss L Doonan, Miss C McKibben, Mrs L Rice, Mrs M Thompson, Mrs D Wilson, Mrs P Watson
Buildings Supervisor:	Mrs A Graham
Cleaner:	Mrs F Magorrian
Ancillary Staff:	Mrs L McMullan, Mrs F Magorrian
Child Protection	
Mrs H Milligan	- Designated Teacher
Mr A Armstrong	- Deputy Designated Teacher

Board of Governors

Transferors	Mrs I Burrows (Chair), Mr R Kernaghan, Rev K Hanna, Mrs L Dougan
Parents	Dr A Heanen, Mrs H Lyons
Teacher	Mrs H Milligan
EA-SE	Mrs I Martin (Vice-Chair), Mrs B Hale
Secretary	Mr A Armstrong

Welcome to another year in the life of Dromara Primary - with an especially warm welcome to the Year 1 pupils who are starting out on their school careers, and also to other pupils who are joining us in other year groups. I trust you have had a restful summer and that pupils and parents are ready to join with all our staff to make this year another special one.

Unfortunately, extra-curricular activities/clubs cannot take place at the moment. We will inform you when they are able to resume.

We trust that this booklet will prove useful. Remember to check our website regularly for updates and we encourage you to 'like' our Facebook page where updates are regularly posted.

Attendance

Please have your child in school ready to start work by 9.10am. Children arriving after this time will be marked as 'late'. At Dromara PS child safety is of paramount importance, so **please do not leave pupils off before 9.00 am** unless they are attending activities/Morning Club.

Pupils enter school grounds via the pedestrian entrance. Do not use the front gate.

All pupils should proceed directly to their classes.

Year 1—3 pupils enter school via the Year 1-3 entrance doors.

Year 4—7 pupils enter school via the Main Entrance.



In accordance with Child Protection Guidelines, please drop pupils off at the appropriate gate/door and vacate the school grounds. Parents should not remain in the playground or accompany their child(ren) into school.

From 9.10am external doors are locked and entry will only be via the main entrance.

Pupil collection times and locations

Due to the current restrictions and guidance regarding COVID-19, we will implement the following procedures until further notice:



Please note that these arrangements:

- will be kept under constant review and may be subject to change at short notice, so please keep an eye on our website/Facebook page for updates;
- are dependent on parents adhering to social distancing rules when in the school grounds and car park (1m distancing as a minimum with 2m distancing as much as possible and we suggest wearing of face coverings);
- **parents/carers must not enter the school with children;**
- please follow any directions shown in the school grounds, where will have a one-way system in operation as far as possible;
- messages must be relayed via – a note to the teacher or a phone call to the office. Non-urgent messages can be relayed through an email on info@dromaraps.org

Date	Class/es	Entry / time	Exit
24 Aug	P7	Via sports hall doors / 9.00-9.10am	Via sports hall doors / 12.15pm
25 Aug	P7	Via sports hall doors / 9.00-9.10am	Via sports hall doors / 3.00pm
26 Aug	P1*	Via P1 fire door / 9.30am onwards*	Via P1 fire door / 12.15pm (+ any P2-6 siblings**)
	P2	Via P2 fire door / 9.00-9.10am	Via P2 fire door / 12.15pm (+ any P3-6 siblings**)
	P3	Via P3 fire door / 9.00-9.10am	Via P3 fire door / 12.15pm (+ any P4-6 siblings**)
	P4	Via KS1 entrance / 9.00-9.10am	Via KS1 entrance / 12.25pm (+ any P5-6 siblings**)
	P5	Via sports hall doors / 9.00-9.10am	Via sports hall doors / 12.25pm (+ any P6 siblings**)
	P6	Via Main Entrance / 9.00-9.10am	Via Main Entrance / 12.25pm
	P7	Via sports hall doors / 9.00-9.10am	Via sports hall doors / 3.00pm
			**NOTE: Older siblings will leave via their designated class exit and not along with younger classes

27 Aug onwards	P1*	Via P1 fire door / 9.00-9.10am	Via P1 fire door / 12.15pm
	P2	Via P2 fire door / 9.00-9.10am	Via P2 fire door / 1.55pm
	P3	Via P3 fire door / 9.00-9.10am	Via P3 fire door / 1.55pm
	P4	Via KS1 entrance / 9.00-9.10am	Via KS1 entrance / 2.55pm (+ any older siblings)
	P5	Via sports hall doors / 9.00-9.10am	Via sports hall doors / 2.55pm (+ any older siblings)
	P6	Via Main Entrance / 9.00-9.10am	Via Main Entrance / 3.00pm
	P7	Via sports hall doors / 9.00-9.10am	Via sports hall doors / 3.00pm

*26th – 28th August are ‘transition’ days for P1 pupils. Parents have been notified of specific days/times on which their children should attend as part of our transition arrangements.

P3 will remain in school until 3.00pm every Monday and Tuesday from Monday 7th September.

It is vital that all Y1-3 pupils are collected promptly as teachers have additional teaching commitments.

We cannot emphasise enough the importance of regular attendance and the school policy is available on the website. *“Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child or young person to fulfil their potential. Young people who regularly miss school without good reason are more likely to become isolated from their friends, to underachieve in examinations and/or become involved in anti-social behaviour.” (DENI)*

Establish a good routine for your child. Every day counts. Remember, 90% attendance may not seem too serious, but that child will have actually missed 3 weeks and 4 days of teaching!

Focus on Punctuality

Children who miss school or are regularly late can never recover certain essential parts of their school day such as settling down to get ready to learn, the lesson’s introduction, important announcements, explanations and the thinking that makes learning come alive and gets them ready for the rest of the day. Of course, when your child grows up and seeks a job, they will quickly learn that employers need reliable, dependable and responsible people to fill employment positions. Being punctual from an early age equips them with the skills to keep it up as adults.



You may think that your child is only missing a few minutes in the morning, but a pupil who is 10 minutes late every day will miss 30 hours of teaching during the year. Lack of punctuality affects learning and behaviour, not only of the pupil who is late, but also for all other learners in the class. Pupils arriving late disrupt the class and reduce learning time for the rest of the class. *If your child arrives more than 10 minutes late, they are marked as ‘late after registration closed’ which records an absence for that morning session.*

Pupil Absences and Appointments

Hopefully your child will be healthy and in school every day. However, if they are absent, please ensure that you provide a reason for any absences. We are required by DENI to record all absences with reasons, as well as late marks. Educational Welfare may investigate if reasons are not given or if unacceptable reasons are given. Please contact school by telephone (you may leave a message) or email on the first day of absence. If a child is off school and no contact has been made with the school, we may contact you to confirm why your child is absent or an absence slip may be sent home on your child’s return. However, it would be helpful if you could let us know immediately.

Remember, if a child is attending a medical appointment for part of a session and you have notified us in advance, the child will still receive a present mark if they return to school during a morning session or leave after afternoon registration. We would ask that you try not to remove siblings from school for appointments for other children. Please help us to keep our records up to date and accurate.



Personal Data and Permission Form

Your child will receive a **data collection sheet and a permission form.** We would ask parents to amend/complete these and return them to the class teacher by Friday 4th Sept. **Please ensure the school office is notified of any changes in your personal information, especially mobile telephone numbers.** In case of emergencies, it is important that we hold at least 2 contacts for each child.

Curriculum Information

This will be posted on our school website during the first term. Select the 'Classes' drop down menu from where you can navigate to your child's class page.

School Policies and other downloadable documents

The 'Parents' page drop down menu gives access to policies, absence slips, Morning/Afternoon Club booking forms, etc. Alternatively, if you require hard copies, please contact the school office.

Meetings with Staff

Remember:

- If you wish to speak to a teacher, ***please make an appointment*** as teachers have other duties/meetings/preparation mornings and afternoons. Please do not just 'pop in', especially when dropping off children in the morning.
- Messages can be relayed to teachers via a note with your child (older pupils can relay messages verbally) or through Mrs Watson.

Thank you for keeping interruptions to a minimum.



Procedures for concerns

If you have any concerns, contact the office to arrange an appointment with your child's teacher. Please inform the office what the concern is about and the teacher will make contact with you – very often concerns can be resolved with a brief phone call. If necessary, a follow-up appointment can then be made with the Principal or Vice-Principal.

Medication (including inhalers) and allergies

It is essential that the school is informed of any medical requirements immediately, including any medication taken outside of school that may have a bearing on the pupil's learning or behaviour.



• **Medication in school**

In all cases, an 'Administration of Medication' form must be completed. If your child requires long term medication, eg, an inhaler, please ensure that they have it in school and readily available. If a pupil requires medication to be taken in school for a short period e.g. antibiotics, then the form must be completed by a parent and agreed with the Principal before medicines are sent into school. This form is available on the website. All medicines must be handed adult to adult, not sent in your child's bag.

• **Allergies**

Pupils with allergies and food intolerances (as opposed to dislikes) should be identified to the school immediately. If a pupil requires an EpiPen/anti-histamines then an appropriate care plan should be drawn up in consultation with the school. If a pupil has a dietary need and receives school meals, a meeting needs to be arranged with the Principal and catering staff.

Behaviour and safety

We would greatly appreciate parental support in reinforcing the messages we encourage the children to remember: *No rough play; Good manners and politeness; Being friendly and including others; Always do your best etc.* For those pupils travelling by bus it is important that they remain seated at all times, be courteous and get on/off the bus safely.



School uniform and belongings

Please ensure that your child comes to school neat and tidy, in correct uniform, including black shoes, **with all items clearly labelled**. 'Signature Works' supply our embroidered items. Pupils should refrain from wearing jewellery (including ear-rings) and from using cosmetics/tattoos, nail varnish, etc.

Please ensure that your child has all items requested on the 'class equipment' sheet and that all belongings

including pens, rulers etc are labelled. Do not bring valuable items to school. We cannot be responsible for them. If your child loses a reading book, there will be £5 charge for replacement. Due to budget restraints, parents may also be asked to replace lost exercise books, etc. Please encourage your child to take good care of their belongings.



School dinners

NOTE: for the time-being, school meals will provide sandwich lunches only. This is to help the school maintain the 'class bubbles' whereby children will have the school lunch delivered to their classroom. We will inform you of any change. Meals cost £2.60 and will be available from Tuesday 1st September (meals for that week should be ordered by 28th August).

We would ask that meals are ordered thereafter on a **Monday** morning with a clear note of days when meals are required and the correct money sent in an envelope, clearly marked with child's name and amount enclosed, as we would prefer not to have to deal with change. Indeed, it would better if a cheque was used to pay for meals (made out to the Education Authority). It is also possible to pay for multiple weeks in advance. If a child is absent, then meals that have been paid for will be carried forward.

Payment should be made before a meal can be provided. If your child requests a dinner which has not been paid for, someone from school will contact you to ask you to bring a packed lunch instead.

All meals must be ordered by 9.50 am. If your child will arrive after this time, please telephone the office before 9.45 am to order a meal or send a packed lunch with your child. **Meals are ordered from Ballynahinch Kitchen and we do not have the facility to provide meals for children who have forgotten to order one or arrive late.**

Free School Meals

Application is made through The Education Authority who inform the school of children who are entitled to Free School Meals. ***If you are eligible, please make sure you apply for Free School Meals by the end of September, even if you think you may not actually use them. This affects our school budget.*** Please contact the school office if you require further information. We can only provide a free meal to children where we have received confirmation of entitlement from the Education Authority. Unless we have been notified in advance, if your child arrives to school after 10 am, please provide them with a packed lunch.

Healthy Eating



Please try to ensure that your child has a healthy snack for their break. We will continue to encourage children to choose healthy options and to reinforce the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. We encourage pupils to stay hydrated during school, as there is a proven benefit to their health and learning ability. However, we ask that pupils **only bring bottles of water** to school. Please do not send any fizzy drinks, juice or 'power' drinks. Our Policy is available on the website.

Morning Club & Afternoon Club

Afternoon Club



Unfortunately, we cannot provide these clubs at the moment. We hope they will be able to recommence in the near future and will inform parents of this via our website. To ensure the smooth running of the clubs, places need to be pre-booked and **bookings will only be accepted with the appropriately completed booking slip and payment.** Booking forms are available on the website or from the office. **Staff cannot accept cash handed to them and verbal instructions. Bookings should be made by 11 am on a Thursday or Friday for the following week or a month in advance.**

- Morning Club opens at 8.00 am and breakfast is served until 8.20 am.
- Afternoon Club has 3 sessions: 2 - 3 pm, 3 - 4 pm and 4 - **4.50 pm**. Staff may organise various activities for each session. Please collect your child promptly from their Afternoon Club session and remember that as staff are supervising children, they are not available to chat or answer queries. Please contact the office if you have a query or would like to make an appointment to discuss any issue.

Please do not assume that a place is available, especially for Morning Club – places must be booked in advance. We cannot exceed our child/supervisor ratio and will have to turn children away if a club is full.

We understand that unexpected circumstances can arise and you may wish to enquire about a session at short notice. In an emergency, please accompany your child to Morning Club to enquire if a place is available. Do not just drop your child off. We will endeavour to accommodate you, but a place cannot be guaranteed. For Afternoon Club, please telephone/email the office before 12 noon to enquire if space is available.

If you have booked a session for a Club which is no longer required, please contact the office in advance so that your payment can be carried over and the session is available for another pupil. Without this notice, unused days cannot be carried over, except in the case of illness or school closure. The receipt, which is always sent home for cash payments, can also act as your confirmation of booking. Thank you for your co-operation.

Money

With so many events usually taking place in school, **money for activities/events should be sent into school with your child in a clearly labelled envelope** with the child's name, class, amount and activity. Money envelopes are available to purchase from school, 20p for 10. Staff cannot accept money offered to them in the school playground or loose change. This process also encourages a child's independence and gives them responsibility. For school dinners or swimming, older children may bring cash in a purse/wallet.



Extra-curricular Activities and Events

Children can normally participate in a wide range of activities throughout the year. Details will be updated on the website. We will resume activities as soon as possible.



PTA Ordinarily, all parents would be invited to our first meeting of the year, but for the moment we will not be having meetings with parents. The PTA plays a vital role in raising funds for the school to help us enhance the quality of your child's education. It is also a great way to get to know other parents!

Our School

The staff have been busy over the summer making sure that the school and grounds are clean and tidy. Please do all you can to help us keep it that way by ensuring that it is litter free inside, in the playgrounds, car parks, garden and community areas. Please remind your child(ren) of the importance of looking after our school.

Holidays and Closures 2020 – 21

All dates are inclusive:

Mon 26 Oct 2020 - Fri 30 Oct 2020 half term	(5 days)
Tue 22 Dec 2020 - Wed 6 Jan 2021	(12 days)
Mon 15 Feb 2021 - Fri 19 Feb 2021 half term	(5 days)
17 th March 2021 - half day	
Mon 29 Mar 2021 - Mon 9 Apr 2021	(10 days)
Mon 3 May 2021	(1 day)
Mon 31 May 2021 - Tue 1 Jun 2021	(2 days)
Year 7 pupils finish on Monday 28 th June 2021	
School Year Ends: Wed 30 th June 2021	

At each half term all pupils finish at 1.55pm

At end of a term all pupils finish at 12.15 (Y1-3 + older siblings) / 12.25pm (remaining Y4-7 pupils)

Other early closings:

Christmas Craft Fair – all children finish at 1.55pm

Parent Interview week – all children finish at 1.55pm

Car Parking

- Please do not park on the yellow zigzag lines at the front of the school. Regarding these markings, The Highway Code states, **"Keep entrance clear of stationary vehicles, even if picking up or setting down children."**



Please do not park on double yellow lines. Regarding these markings, The Highway Code states, **"No waiting at any time."**



- Please do not park in/across driveways of residents. There have been instances when nursing staff or ambulances have not been able to gain access.**
- Please do not park on the driveway in/out of the car park (or on the footpath) as this blocks other cars from getting in/out. Park in the designated parking spaces.
- Please exercise courtesy and patience in the vicinity of the school, especially at peak times.
- The school takes the safety of its pupils and those who are dropping off and picking up very seriously, but it needs your co-operation to ensure that this is done safely.
- Please pass this note on to child-minders/nurseries/relatives that may collect your child(ren).**

Pupils should enter school via the pedestrian entrance. Please use the footpaths provided.

We ask everyone to be vigilant when using the car park, both when driving and when walking across the car park to footpaths.

Thank you for your help in keeping **your** children safe.

Infection Control advice for parents

If your child is feeling unwell, it is advisable to keep them off school until they feel better, especially with colds, coughs etc. They will recover more quickly and this reduces the risk of spreading infections. The guidelines below are general and if you are in any doubt please contact your doctor. Parents are very good at letting us know if a child has an infection, so please continue to do this.

- **Vomiting/Diarrhoea**

If your child has been sent home from school with vomiting/diarrhoea or has had these symptoms before coming to school, they should not return to school until they have been symptom free for 48 hours.

- **Common childhood infections**

When should my child return to school?



Chicken Pox When all spots have crusted over **	Conjunctivitis None*	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever None*	Hand, foot & mouth None*	Impetigo When lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash **	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling **	Scabies After first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Slapped Cheek None* **	Whooping Cough 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Flu Until recovered	Head Lice None*	Threadworms None*	Tonsillitis None*		

**Please inform the school urgently of these conditions due to the serious risk to vulnerable children and pregnant women.

*Although there is no specific exclusion period for these infections, if your child is not feeling well they should be given time off to recover as well as preventing spread of the illness. Treatment may be required.

- **Head injury advice**

Observe your child carefully and please seek medical advice if any of the following occur or you have concerns about your child:

- They complain of increasing headaches despite taking simple painkillers
- They vomit more than once
- They complain of dizziness
- They develop eyesight problems
- They have problems understanding/speaking
- They have clear fluid/blood coming from nose/ears or new deafness in one or both ears
- They collapse or are unconscious (call 999 for an ambulance)
- They appear confused (disorientated or muddled up)
- They become increasingly drowsy/difficult to rouse
- They have a fit (call 999 for an ambulance)
- They have a loss of balance or problems walking

For any concussion injury we would strongly suggest that your child is assessed by a qualified medical doctor. This is a priority and should be undertaken without delay. For our information, please inform school if your child has sustained a concussion injury, especially when this has occurred outside school.

Communication

Newsletter, Website, Facebook, Text, Email, Telephone and School Office

*“Parents and teachers work together for a common goal:
to facilitate the best educational experience possible for the children”.*

As ever, we will have a busy year and school may communicate with parents in various ways.

Monthly **newsletters** are available on the website. These contain information for the following month and we ask parents to make a note of dates/times.

We would remind parents to regularly check the **school website**, www.dromaraps.org, which is frequently updated – it’s a great place to find answers! Perhaps you could bookmark the page on your phone or save it in the browser of your computer, tablet or phone for quick access to up-to-date information. This includes:

- Contact Information
- Newsletters
- Policies and forms
- Extra-curricular activities
- Updates on the Home Page
- Calendar
- Class pages
- Dinner Menu



Our **Facebook page** is also regularly updated. We encourage you to ‘like’ the page so that you will receive updates, and ‘like’ and ‘share’ posts, but Facebook is for information only - Messenger is not available and we appreciate parents not leaving comments.



A message may be sent via **text** to a child’s primary contact number (supplied to school on the data collection form). This is usually in an emergency situation or for important reminders.

Office hours are 9.00 am – 12.45 pm and there is no guarantee that telephone messages or emails will be picked up outside of these times.

Teachers may write messages in your child’s **homework diary** and notes from school will be sent home in their **schoolbag**. Please check daily. It is a parent’s responsibility to return any permission forms on time. If a permission form is not returned, an alternative activity will be provided for your child.

Parents can contact school by sending a note in with your child, calling into the office or telephoning /sending an email.

Thank you for your co-operation in making school a happy, safe environment for your child.

Please keep this booklet for future reference