

Happy children;
learning and achieving together.



Dromara Primary School
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Principal: Mr A Armstrong

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2nd March 2021

Dear Parent,

As I am sure you are aware, the Education Minister has set out a plan for a phased reopening of schools from 8th March 2021. This of course may be subject to change.

I want to thank each and every parent and carer who has engaged with our home learning. This has not been an easy task! Thank you for your continued support during this time.

If you have any queries, please email the school office at the above address. Messages on the school telephone answering machine may not be picked up for several days.

As you know, plans may need to be changed at short notice, dependent on further information from DENI. Please keep an eye on our website for updates.

As long as the weather is reasonable, we will endeavour to take the pupils outside whenever possible, including break times. We would therefore request that you make sure that your child has a coat with them every day.

COVID-19

To date, we have been fortunate that there have been no cases of COVID-19 inside the school, necessitating closure or isolation of classes. We really want to keep it that way and so we are relying very much on parents' support. Please adhere to the following guidelines to keep all in our school community safe:

- **We would strongly encourage that *all* parents continue to wear face coverings.**
- **Please maintain social distancing when in the school grounds/car park.**
- **Please maintain social distancing at the doors when dropping off or collecting children.**

So far, we have not had big gaps in the drop off and pick up times, for the convenience of parents, but we ask for your cooperation so that this can be maintained. Thank you for your help.

We hope that you and your families continue to remain safe and well and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school soon.

Please refer to the information on the next page for return of P1-3 pupils from 8th March and arrangements for P4-7.

Regards

A Armstrong

Please note: Only P1-3 pupils are returning to face-to-face teaching from Monday 8th March. P4-7 pupils should continue with home learning. At this stage P1-3 will then return to home learning from Monday 22nd March (i.e. finish on Friday 19th March)

School ends on Friday 26th March for Easter.

School will reopen on Monday 12th April for P1-3 (subject to change – please keep an eye on the website for updates)

Date	What's happening?
Mon 8 March	<p>P1-3 return + KW/Vulnerable Children</p> <p>Home Learning (HL) Packs to be collected from hall & completed work returned. Parents dropping off P1-3 pupils, who have P4-7 siblings, can collect from hall.</p> <p>Parents with no children in P1-3 can collect from hall as below: P4 + Older siblings: 9.30 – 9.45am P5 + Older Siblings: 9.45 – 10.00am P6 & P7: 10.00 – 10.25am</p>
Fri 19 March	<p>P1-3 finish (subject to change) Pupils in P1-3 can take home their own & older siblings' HL Packs today.</p>
Mon 22 March	<p>Collection of HL for other pupils. Packs & completed work returned. Parents with no children in P1-3 can collect from hall as per times above.</p>

Drop-off & Collection Times

Children should be dropped off 9.00 – 9.10am.

W/c Monday 8th March: P3 will go home at 1.55pm every day.

W/c Monday 15th March: P3 will go home at 3.00pm on Mon & Tue and 1.55pm Wed-Fri.

P1 & P2 will be collected at normal times, as previously (P1 @ 1.45pm; P2 @ 1.55pm). This helps to ease congestion at home time.

Pupils in P3 (and P4-7 upon their return) can return to using **school bags** for carrying books/lunch bags/drinks to and from school. P1 & P2 pupils should continue to use the book bags as before.

Stationery items for use in school

Before Christmas, many children had run low on their in-school stationery items (pencils, felt tips, colouring pencils/twistables). We would ask that you ensure your child is sent in with any of these items on Monday please.

School meals

Free school meals for eligible pupils in Years 1 – 3 are available from Monday 8th March and should be ordered each Monday.

Other pupils may also avail of a meal (£2.60). Please remember to send the correct money in an envelope on a Monday with your child's name, class and days required. Cheques should be made payable to the Education Authority.

St Patrick's Day, Wednesday 17th March 2021

Due to all St Patrick's Day celebrations being cancelled this year, children will remain in school until 2.00pm. However, there are no school meals available on that day, so children should have a packed lunch provided.

Morning and Afternoon Clubs remain suspended at this time.

Parent Interviews

Originally we had planned to have parent interviews before half term in February, but this was prevented by the current lockdown. Teachers have endeavoured to keep in contact with families since Christmas to offer support and guidance where needed. However, on the assumption that all pupils will be back in school in the near future, we would wish to have some contact with parents before too long. We intend to use our School Development Day (which was to be used in February) on **Friday 30th April** to contact parents for a chat about your child's progress. **Therefore, school will be closed for all pupils on that date.** More information will be given about this a little nearer to the time.