



Hezlett Primary School

1 Ballywoolen Road, Castlerock BT51 4TZ Tel. (028) 7084 8395

Principal: Mrs D Winters

Dear Parent,

24/8/21

The staff are looking forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on Tuesday 31st August. This school year will hopefully allow us to return to a semblance of normality. DE guidance has arrived, but is in parts contradictory. With NI Covid numbers the highest in the UK, many schools have opted to begin the school year as they finished in June with bubbles in place indoors and outside. Hezlett staff have risk assessed all elements of our school restart and have decided to introduce some small changes to give all our pupils greater opportunity to interact socially and to facilitate childcare.

Breakfast club will run from 8.00am until 8.30am. Numbers using this service are usually quite small and these pupils will be catered for in the assembly hall, socially distanced and in their class groupings. **Pupils not availing of breakfast club can be dropped off at school from 8.30 to 9.00.** They will drop off belongings in their classroom and then be supervised in the playground unless the weather is inclement. When dropping your child off at school and picking up, please continue to wear a face-covering and try to maintain a safe distance from others when possible.

Outside before school, at breaktime and lunchtime we will be having 'double bubbles' with P1 and P2 pupils mixing outdoors for play. P3 and P4 will play together. P5 and P6 will mix in the playground and P6/7 and P7 will be able to mix freely outdoors. The Covid risk outdoors is slight and the benefits of increased social interaction and the benefits of a larger outdoor area to play in outweigh that risk.

While pupils will remain in their own classroom bubble during the school day, we will be using the dinner hall at lunchtime. P1-4 will eat from 12.10 to 12.30 in the hall if taking school dinner, or in their classroom if having packed lunch. The hall will be zoned into 4 areas, so the pupils will remain in their own class grouping. They will be outdoors from 12.30 until 1.00. P5-7 will be outdoors from 12.00 until 12.30 and will eat from 12.30 until 12.50.

We feel that getting together for assembly is a very important part of school life but updated advice from EA is that we should avoid unnecessary gatherings. We will re-assess at half-term.

Afterschool care remains difficult to organise safely. Until October half term we will be providing **Cabin Club for P1-3 pupils from 2.00 pm until 3.00 daily.** This care will be provided in the child's classroom, thus maintaining the class bubble indoors. We will re-evaluate this towards the end of October.

We hope to be able to offer some afterschool clubs this term. If those clubs are outdoors, they will be open to all children in that 'double bubble'. Indoor clubs will be for separate classes. These **clubs will run from 2.00 - 3.00 for P1-3 and 3.00 - 4.00 for P4-7.** Further information will follow.

School will end daily at 2.00 pm for P1-3 and at 3.00 pm for P4-7 unless availing of afterschool care or clubs. Pupils using the yellow or blue bus should continue to use a face covering to avoid the need for self-isolation if they become the close contact of a positive case.

We expect that at some point, a pupil or staff member will test positive. Should a pupil test positive they will have to self-isolate for 10 days. Advice from the PHA at the moment is that, rather than the whole class bubble self-isolating, close contacts of that pupil (eg. those pupils sitting at that child's table) will be asked to self-isolate. This should ease disruption caused by whole class bubbles being

sent home for 10 days. This advice was based on the fact that EA had stated that class bubbles were no longer necessary. EA have begun to backtrack on this initial advice and we await updated PHA guidance on this matter. At the moment those children deemed as close contacts of a positive case can return to school as soon as they are in receipt of a negative PCR test. This test should be taken as soon as possible (not on Day 2 as adults are advised) and should be repeated on Day 8. Should a parent decide that they do not wish their child to take a PCR test, then that child will be asked to self-isolate for 10 days. A child with a negative PCR test result can return to school as soon as their first PCR test result is available. As before, you should email the PCR test result to dwinters565@c2kni.net I have uploaded the latest PHA flow chart for education to the website under Parent Information / Covid 19.

We rely on you as parents to inform school if your child is exhibiting any symptoms of Covid 19. That includes a new or persistent cough, a temperature or a loss of taste or smell. Minor cold symptoms such as a runny nose need no further action and pupils should attend school as normal.

Opportunity to make bookings for Breakfast Club, break, school dinner and Cabin Club will be available by the end of the week and booking for afterschool clubs will follow shortly. I will send a text to parents when bookings can begin. The Canteen menu for September & October is available on the school website under Parent Information, Dinner menu. Can I encourage as many families as possible to use our school canteen for break and lunch? The new hatch facilities are excellent and school provides a varied menu to suit all tastes.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Donna Winters

MRS D WINTERS

Principal and Secretary to the Board of Governors

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