



# Frequently Asked Questions

Whilst the following frequently asked questions may not answer every query you have, it is hoped that they will provide further guidance and support as your child returns to school.

***This document will be updated if new measures are put in place.***

**Updated on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020**

## What is a class bubble?

When we return to school, each class will stay within a protective bubble as far as possible.

The children and staff within each bubble will remain constant, with each bubble having specific entrances and exits to the school, their own designated toilets and sinks and play areas. The children will also be allocated specific play areas during break and lunch.

## What time can my child arrive to school?

Our morning arrival time will now be from 8:50am - 9:10am. This is to accommodate a staggered drop off. **Please do not drop off your child before this time.**

P1 and P2 will enter school through door at Mrs Speers room between 8:50am and 9:00am. P3 and P4 will enter school through door at Mrs Speers room between 9:00am and 9:10am. The side gate will be open to allow pupils around the back of the school. Parents are allowed to bring their child to the outside door but will not be allowed any further.

P5, P6 and P7 will enter school through main door from 8:50am to 9:10am.

Children for Breakfast Club will enter school through the main door.

Older children with siblings in P1, P2, P3 and P4 can walk these children around to their door and enter the school accordingly if they wish.

Parents must leave the school as soon as their child/children have been dropped off.

No parents will be allowed to enter the school building during this time and teachers will not be available to discuss any issues. This must be done via prior arrangement.

Children arriving to school for Breakfast Club will be met by a member of school staff.

## On arrival where will my child go?

Your child should go straight to the classroom, entering via the designated classroom door, highlighted in previous correspondence.

All children will be met in the classroom by their teacher or assistant and asked to use the hand sanitizer provided or to wash their hands upon arrival.

Children going to Breakfast Club will enter via the main doors and go to the hall.

Children will have their temperature taken before going to the hall for Breakfast Club or going to their classroom by a member of staff.

## How is break-time going to work?

We have staggered our break-time.

Each class will eat their break in the classroom before going outside.

Each class will stay in their 'bubble' and will be supervised by the staff from within their 'bubble'.

Class	Break-time
P1 - P2	10:30am – 10:45am
P3 – P4	10:35am – 10:50am
P5 – P7	10:40am – 10:55am

## Can my child get a drink in school?

Children are encouraged to bring their own, labelled water bottle to school.

Alternatively, the children may bring a disposable water bottle to school.

There will be no sharing of cups/bottles.

## What are the arrangements for lunch?

School dinners remain priced at £2.60 per day. Please send dinner money to school on a Monday morning, ensuring correct change. **No change will be returned.**

Children will eat their dinner in the hall in segregated areas to allow them to eat in their bubble.

The children will place their lunch order prior to lessons commencing each morning.

Those who are eating a packed lunch are asked where possible to bring their lunch to school in disposable wrapping.

The children will be supervised during lunch by teaching staff, non-teaching staff and Mrs McClenaghan. All hygiene and social distance requirements will be followed by staff in order to provide this cover and supervision.

Class	Lunchtime
P1 - P2 *only P2 initially.	12:00pm – 12:30pm
P3 – P4	12:05pm – 12:35pm
P5 – P7	12:30pm – 1:00pm

Outside play at lunch time will follow a similar pattern to break-time with the children being supervised by staff from within their own 'bubble'.

## **Will there be Breakfast Club?**

Breakfast Club will be on offer, albeit with certain protective guidelines in place.

Breakfast Club will run between 8:20am and 8:45am and will begin on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

The cost of Breakfast Club is still 50p per day.

Breakfast club will be held in the school hall.

Children will have to socially distance and will be allocated areas in relation to their classroom bubble.

There will be no games on offer for children to play with and children must remain in their allocated seat.

If there are too many pupils attending Breakfast Club, preference will be given to Working Pupils' Parents or those who are receiving Income Support.

Additionally, if pupils are displaying unsatisfactory behaviour, parents will be informed, and children will be removed from Breakfast Club until their behaviour improves.

## **Will there be any extra-curricular activities?**

Unfortunately not - this will be kept under review and any new information will be passed on to parents when available.

## **What time does school end?**

P1 and P2 will leave school via the side gate every day at 2:00pm. For the month of September all Year 1 children will be collected at the outside door beside Mrs Speers' classroom. (Adverse weather conditions may mean children will leave through the main doors).

P3 will leave school via the side gate at 2:00pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. P3 will leave school via the side gate at 3:00pm on Tuesday and Thursday.

P4 will leave school via the side gate every day at 3:00pm.

P5, P6 and P7 will leave through the main door every day at 3:00pm.

Parents must remain spread out around the school gates to comply with social distancing.

Please respect social distancing otherwise we will have to stagger drop off and pick up times for each class, which we know will not be as convenient for everyone.

Parents/Guardians must not gather at the gates, school doors or enter the school building unless they have a pre-arranged appointment.

## **Can I come into school?**

Unfortunately, no. If you need to speak with Mr Cheevers or any other member of staff, you must have a pre-arranged appointment to allow for social distancing protocols.

Please contact the school via telephone or email to arrange appointment.

If Parents/Guardians have an appointment or are coming into school they must wear a face mask, use sanitiser on arrival and respect social distancing procedures at all times.

## **What does my child need to bring to school?**

Children do not require a pencil case. Each child will have their own labelled pot of resources at their desk filled with equipment from the list posted on the school website.

No schoolbags should be brought to school.

Each child must bring a coat with them to school daily. The children will be brought outside, where possible, in order to get a break from the classroom.

Children are permitted to bring a water bottle to school, however this must be cleaned every day before being brought into school.

## **How will homework be set?**

How we traditionally set and receive homework back is going to change in the interim.

No homework will be set for the first two weeks of September. (This may be extended and is subject to change)

Homework will be set via a number of online platforms. Parent Information Sessions will be delivered prior to homework commencing.

Resources required for homework may be sent home from school, with your child asked to keep these at home and work from them.

Homework for P1 and P2 pupils may follow a different method, however this will be clearly explained to parents before commencing, due to the different nature of their tasks.

## **Can I take my child out for an appointment?**

We would advise against this; however, we do recognise that this may not always be possible.

Please email or phone the school prior to any appointment to allow necessary arrangements to be put into place. ([info@tobermoreps.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@tobermoreps.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk))

## **What do I do if my child is late arriving to school in the morning?**

Your child may enter the school via the main entrance, where they will be let into the building by a member of staff.

Children will be asked to use the hand sanitizer provided or to wash their hands, before being brought to their classroom by a member of staff.

## **Does my child wear school uniform?**

Yes - all children will wear school uniform. However, we would urge you to maintain a high level of washing routine.

On the days your child has PE, your child may wear navy jogging bottoms (no large logos).

Your child's teacher will inform him/her of when their PE day is.

## **Does my child have to wear a facemask?**

The current advice is that there is no requirement for children to wear facemasks in school.

There may be times when some staff in school are wearing PPE, however this will all be explained to the children.

## **Covid-19 Guidance**

Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell, especially if they are exhibiting any of the symptoms of the Covid-19 virus.

Please talk to your child about the importance of good hygiene practices and about the Catch It, Bin It, Kill It strategy for sneezes and coughs.

If your child presents symptoms in school, you will be contacted as soon as possible. Please be aware that the school will always air on the side of caution.

Please read the latest advice from the Department of Education in relation to actions school must take if a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19 arises in school. This guidance is available on our website.