



Tobermore Primary School



6 Maghera Road, Tobermore, BT45 5QB

Tel: 028 7964 2254

Website: www.tobermoreps.com
info@tobermoreps.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk

Principal: Mr. Ian Cheevers

Tuesday 24th August 2021

Dear Parent(s),

I trust that you have had an enjoyable break over the summer and had some time to relax and recharge your batteries for the new academic year. I would like to draw your attention to some information to for the beginning of Term 1.

As I mentioned in my correspondence with you a couple of weeks ago, I hoped to be back in touch with further information regarding our return to school protocols as soon as possible.

The Department of Education released their guidance to schools on Wednesday 18th August and from this information, I would like to update on some arrangements for children to return to school. I also wish to reassure all parents that these will be operational only and will not involve any organisation or preparation on your behalf.

Key Points

- All pupils (P1 - P7) will begin the new academic year on Friday 27th August.
 - School will begin at **8:50am** and end at **12:00pm** for all children.
 - School will be closed on Monday 30th August for the Bank Holiday.
 - School will reopen on Tuesday 31st August. Please see the details below for your child/children.
 - Year 1 pupils – 8:50am to 12:00pm (**Primary 1 children will finish school at 12.00pm until Friday 24th September. From Monday 27th September Year 1 pupils will finish at 2 pm.**)
 - Year 2 pupils - 8:50am to 2:00pm
 - Year 3 pupils – 8:50am to 2:00pm (**Please note that Year 3 pupils will finish school every day at 2pm for Term 1. This arrangement will then be looked at again before the beginning of Term 2**)
 - Year 4 - Year 7 pupils - 8:50am to 3:00pm
- **All children will need to bring a packed lunch on Tuesday 31st August, as there will be no school dinners provided on this day.** School dinners will recommence on Wednesday 1st September. (Please check website for updated menu for September). School dinners remain priced at **£2.60** per day.
- Breakfast Club will run on Friday 27th August from 8:20am to 8:50am. The cost of Breakfast Club is 80p per day.
- Pupils (excluding Year 1 and Year 2) will be able to bring school bags and personal equipment (Pencil cases, lunch/snack boxes etc.) to and from school daily. No toys or other items are permitted in school at this stage.
- **Drop off for Pupils**
 - Year 1 to Year 4 pupils will enter school through door at Mrs Speers' room.
 - The side gate will be opened 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.
 - Year 5 to Year 7 will enter school through main entrance.
 - Children for Breakfast Club will enter school through the main entrance also.
 - Older children with siblings in P1, P2, P3 and P4 can walk these children around to Mrs Speers' door and enter the school using this entrance if they wish.
 - Parents must leave the school as soon as their child/children have been dropped off.

Please remember to wear a face covering and maintain social distancing on and around the school grounds.

- **Collection of Pupils**
 - Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 pupils will leave school via the side gate every day at 2:00pm.



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- Please note: - **Up until Friday 24th 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).
- Year 4 and Year 5 will leave school via the side gate every day at 3:00pm.
- Year 6 and Year 7 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. Parents/Guardians must not gather at the gates, school doors or enter the school building unless they have a pre-arranged appointment.

- Where possible, pupils' school dinner money should be sent into school in a clearly labelled envelope each Monday. (Correct change is preferred). Any other money for school events, etc should also be clearly labelled and enclosed in an envelope. School envelopes are available from the school office for £2.50 per packet.

- Our Tuck Shop, which is run by our Student Council, will start again on Friday 3rd September.

- **School Uniform**
 - All pupils should wear their formal school uniform as explained in the table on the next page.
 - Year 1 and Year 2 pupils will wear their full formal uniform every day,
 - Pupils in Year 3 – Year 7 will wear formal school uniform on non-PE days. We are in the process of looking into sourcing a new PE Kit for pupils, however, this will not be in place for this year.
 - On PE days, pupils in Year 3 to Year 7 will wear their PE uniform including appropriate footwear
 - Pupils should not wear skins, as these are not part of school uniform.
 - Earrings should be studs only as there is a risk of injury with longer earrings. Earrings should not be worn on PE days. You will be notified of PE days by the class teacher.
 - We are aware that some of our children have opted to wear a hoodie as part of their school uniform. Unfortunately, this is not part of the school uniform however, we are willing to allow children to wear this item this year, as parents have gone to the expense of purchasing these. However, we would ask that in the future only school jumpers are bought with the school crest
 - **We understand that pupils in Year 3 to Year 7 enjoy playing football at break and lunch time. Please can we ask that on non PE days, that children come to school wearing their formal school uniform and get changed into suitable footwear at break and lunch time to play football.**
 - Over this year the Board of Governors in consultation with the school community e.g. parents and pupils, will look at the 'School Uniform Policy' currently in place within the school and make amendments based on feedback.
 - It is preferred that school uniforms are bought in Select Kids in Magherafelt, to help keep consistency with uniforms.

Boys	A blue polo-shirt A navy sweatshirt with school crest Navy trousers (Not tracksuit bottoms) Black shoes
Girls	A blue polo-shirt A navy sweatshirt/cardigan with school crest Navy trousers (Not tracksuit bottoms), a navy skirt or pinafore White or navy socks Black shoes
PE Kit (Year 3 to Year 7 pupils)	A blue polo-shirt Navy (unlabelled) tracksuit bottoms or navy (unlabelled) shorts Suitable footwear e.g. trainers/plimsolls Tracksuit Bottoms and shorts can only be worn on P.E. days



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- **Online Learning Platforms**

- Staff will continue to use online platforms e.g. SeeSaw and Microsoft Teams, to provide information and updates about classroom activities and arrangements.
- Homework will not be completed and upload via these platforms, but instead be completed using Literacy and Numeracy homework books or booklets.
- Your child's teacher will send you updated information regarding your child's login on their return to school.
- In the event of school closure or a pupil having to isolate, work will be sent home via these platforms and uploaded by the pupil when completed.

- **Free School Meals and School Uniform Grant**

- If your child is entitled to Free School Meals or a school uniform grant, please click on the link below.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

**** Remember do not send your child to school if they or anyone in your household is COVID positive or is displaying symptoms of Covid-19. Follow PHA advice regarding isolation. You are required to provide evidence of a negative COVID result for your child, if they have been a close contact or have displayed symptoms before they can return to school. ****

Whilst the details above are familiar to most of our school community and they are mainly for organisational purposes. I do however hope that they give you some guidance and reassurance as your children return to Tobermore Primary School.

If you have any further queries or require any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch, by emailing icheevers766@c2kni.net.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back to Tobermore Primary School on Friday 27th August.

Many thanks,

Ian Cheevers
(Principal of Tobermore Primary School)