



Portrush Primary School

Crocknamack Road, Portrush,

Co. Antrim BT56 8JW

Principal: Mr C. G. Guy B. Ed (Hons) P.Q.H.



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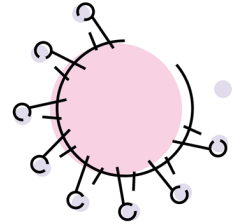
028 70 822 333

28th September 2020

Covid Updates:

Welcome back to the first newsletter of a year unlike any other-and yet it is just as important, if not more important, than any for our children.

Our children have settled in and I hope you can appreciate that we have tried to keep disruption to a minimum whilst still doing what we can to keep everyone safe. Whilst confusion and contradiction seem to reign elsewhere, we really are trying to keep a simple, common sense approach. Without a doubt we are as befuddled and confused as any of you at any given time!



Please refer to the advice document at the rear of this booklet.

****Please inform school immediately if you have a confirmed case.****

- In this eventuality we must contact the EA and PHA for advice individual to each circumstance;
- Disappointingly, the helplines to contact them are only open 8am-5pm;
- Therefore it may be last minute that you are contacted to keep your child at home-depending on when we are informed;
- We will not identify the individual with a positive test;
- Remote Learning will be available provided the teacher is not unwell (**Please ensure you have Seesaw access!**)
- If you or your child has been tested and you are awaiting a result, please **do not send your child to school**;
- The guidelines changed last week and are due to be changed again today, so all this information is only correct at this moment!

You will have heard much in the news and media of classes, year groups, bubbles etc then being excluded. We will follow all necessary advice should this happen to us. So far so good, but nothing is guaranteed. I hope we will continue to enjoy your support should this occur!

How we reach the end of this or learn to live with this remains to be seen, but we continue one day at a time and know this is where the kids need to be!

Drop offs and pick ups:

Please be mindful, where you can, of the previously listed drop off and pick up times-there has been a move away from these and we are fortunate enough to have the space to cope, more easily certainly, in the mornings. Social distancing at drop off times is your responsibility. Remember before the children come in in the morning and when they are released to you at home time, they are in your care if you let them interact with others at that stage it is your choice.

Reading books:

I hope you will understand that, especially down the school, where children may have been reading more than one book a week, when we receive books in and leave them in 'quarantine' for three days, we do not have the sheer number of books to be able to leapfrog through schemes and set more than one book a week. **Please help us by making sure any outstanding reading books from this year or last are returned to school ASAP!**



After school activities:

For the time being, we are pausing the intended after school activities until **at least** half term so we can see how things play out. Karate, hockey, football and craft club were all scheduled to start-we will keep you up to date with this as it develops.

School photographs:

Cool for School proofs have been sent home and anyone wishing to place an order should return their envelopes to school by Monday 5th October or they can also be completed online at coolforschoolphotography.com

If you had a photo taken with siblings, they are not included in the envelopes, but can be placed online.



Parent Interview week:



We are tentatively scheduling parent interviews for the week beginning 9th November. Dates and times will be sent home nearer the time.

Please remember all children go home that week at 2pm. DE guidelines are, as you can imagine, constantly evolving. It may be that **some teachers offer them online via Zoom etc and some will run with face-to-face meetings.** We will keep you updated as we move forward.

School Closures:

School will be closed for School Development Days on **Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd October**. The Half Term break takes place over the entire week of **26th-30th October**.

School Trip:

Children in P5-7 who were not signed up to travel on last year's school trip should have received a note. We have had a positive uptake so far-please note the **closing date for deposit is 5th October**.



Free School Meals:

There has been a great deal of disruption and confusion around Free School Meals this year as EA have struggled to process forms on time. Please make sure, if you feel you may be entitled that you do apply-this **also has an effect on our funding in school**, so **please** do complete if you think you may be eligible!

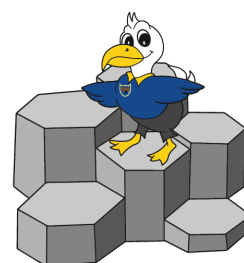
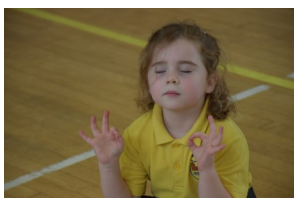
Milk Money:

The second period of Milk Money runs in school from **2 November—18 December**. The **closing date for payment is Tuesday 20 October**. This payment (£7.50) will be set up on ParentPay in the coming days.



Flu Vaccinations:

On Tuesday 13th October the School nursing team will be visiting school to administer this year's round of flu vaccinations. I would stress that these are an annual event and not a response to the current situation. The majority of forms have already been returned and even if you do not wish your child to receive this, you should return the form indicating this.



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our schools safe and helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.

DON'T SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS.

VISIT [NIDIRECT.GOV.UK/](https://nidirect.gov.uk/) CORONAVIRUS TO BOOK A TEST ONLINE. CALL 119 IF YOU CANNOT BOOK A TEST ONLINE.

YOU SHOULD BOOK A COVID-19 TEST IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

A HIGH TEMPERATURE

This means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature).

OR

A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).

OR

A LOSS OR CHANGE TO THEIR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE

This means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 BUT HAS OTHER COLD-LIKE SYMPTOMS, SUCH AS A RUNNY NOSE, THEY DO NOT NEED TO BE TESTED AND THEY OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD DO NOT NEED TO SELF-ISOLATE. YOUR CHILD CAN ATTEND SCHOOL IF FIT TO DO SO.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO IF:

YOUR CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the test is negative providing they are well enough, have not had a fever for 48 hours and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result
- Self-isolate for at least 10 days as advised by the PHA.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school after 10 days even if they still have a cough / loss of smell or taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks.

SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- The household member should book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the symptomatic household member's test is negative and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

CONTACT TRACING HAS IDENTIFIED MY CHILD AS A CLOSE CONTACT

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for at least 14 days as advised by the PHA Contact Tracing Service

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A CLOSE CONTACT

WHAT TO DO?

- Attend school as normal
- If your child does not have any COVID-19 symptoms they should carry on with normal activities.

YOUR CHILD HAS TRAVELLED ABROAD AND HAS TO SELF-ISOLATE

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for 14 days in line with quarantine advice

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

*If your child has been identified as a close contact of a case of COVID-19, or has returned from travel abroad and is self-isolating, they must self-isolate for 14 days regardless of a negative COVID-19 test result.

Further information, including Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Carers, can be found on the Department of Education's website at www.education-ni.gov.uk