



ST. JOHN'S P.S GILFORD

42A Castle Hill, Gilford, Craigavon BT63 6HH
Phone: 028 38831555 Email: info@stjohns.gilford.ni.sch.uk
Principal: Mrs S Lyness BSSc PGCE PQH(NI)
www.stjohnspsgilford.com Twitter: @stjohnsgilford

14th March 2021

Update for Parents: Return to School (P.1 - P.3)

Some important points to note:

- Pupils from P.1 – P.3 will return to school for face-to-face teaching from **Monday 8th March until Friday 19th March** when they will then return to home learning until after the Easter break (**Mon 12th April**). All pupils attending school from 8th March (including those in school under Key Worker supervision) **MUST** wear their school uniform. A reminder that our uniform alternates between full school uniform worn on **Monday, Wednesday & Fridays** and P.E uniform worn on **Tuesday & Thursdays**. Please note, school will be **closed** to all, including online learning, on **Wed 17th March** for St. Patrick's Day.
- A reminder to please ensure that all pupils wash their hands thoroughly before coming to school and should they have a temperature or feel unwell, they **must not** attend.
- School meals will be available from Monday 8th March for those pupils in P.1 – P.3 **ONLY**. A set meal will be available each day (please see attached Dinner Menu) priced at £2.60. A reminder that all dinner money must be paid for in advance through the EZPayments App. Please log in promptly and ensure there is sufficient credit on your balance **before** booking meals. Please then top up your account, as necessary. Unfortunately, a small number of pupils still have an outstanding balance owed for dinners taken before Christmas, should this not be cleared, school meals may be

refused. Any pupils attending under key worker supervision must continue to bring their lunch as meals **are not available** for this group at present.

- All Parents/Guardians are asked to please adhere to social distancing around the school gate and grounds. Face coverings **must** also be worn onsite. Please ensure this is communicated to additional adults that may drop off/collect your child also.
- The next Home Learning pack for P.4-7 pupils will be available from the school office on **Monday 8th March**. Anyone dropping off younger siblings may collect this from **9.00am**; we ask that everyone else drops by between **10.00am and 12noon** to pick this up. A reminder that parents **MUST NOT** drive into the school grounds during the school day.
- Those children that will be continuing to attend school under the key worker supervision scheme must still be picked up from the school gate at **2.00pm** each day. This is to allow staff the time after supervision has ended, to mark and respond to online work submitted via Seesaw. Please note all teaching staff will be unavailable to respond to work submitted until after this time. P.4 – P.7 pupils are asked to please continue to return their completed Home Learning pack work to the school office for correction as and when it is completed. As stated via a previous communication, DE requires that we **must** have evidence of work being completed by pupils from home. Pupils not submitting work **either** online or via completed Home Learning packs will be given an absent mark.
- Parents of P.7 pupils are reminded that the online admissions portal for post-primary schools is now open and all applications should be completed by **4pm on Tuesday 16th March**.
- Thank you to those that completed our recent online survey. The data and feedback collected will help us improve our provision in the event of any further lockdowns.
- We are aware that dates previously issued for the Sacraments may now not be viable. We will issue further communication relating to this when it is known.

Finally, please see below for a reminder of the mitigation measures we have in operation in and around our school. We thank you tremendously for your cooperation in adhering to these, to help keep our school as safe as we can at present.

- Hands free, foot operated hand sanitiser stations can be found at all entrances and exits which everyone must use when entering/leaving the premises.
- Children must wash their hands before leaving home to come to school. On arrival in school, hands will be sprayed with sanitiser as the children enter their classroom. There will be regular hand washing opportunities throughout the day.
- Appropriate signage is displayed at the school gate, entrance and around the school building. It is our expectation that everyone will read and adhere to these messages.
- Class bubbles are in operation. The pupils within each bubble will use separate entrances/exits and play in different areas.
- The school building will open at **8.55am** each morning. P.2 pupils commence class at **9.00am**. P.1 & P.3 pupils commence class at **9.10am**. P.1 & P.2 pupils finish at **2.00pm**. P.3 pupils finish at **2.10pm**. In keeping with advice from the Minister of Education we ask that you please move on and off the school site as quickly as possible and that there is no loitering at the school gates.
- There will be (where possible) social distancing between pupils and adults.
- Parents/Guardians are asked not to enter the school building. Should you wish to speak to your child's class teacher, we ask that you phone the school office to leave a message or make an appointment.
- If a meeting has been arranged between a parent and teacher, a face covering must be worn within the school building.

We hope that the above information answers any queries you may have, should you have any further queries, please email or telephone the school office where we will endeavour to answer them as best, we can. This is the most up to date return to school guidance that we have, as always though, things may be subject to change at very short notice.

Should there be any amendments needed we will communicate them to you as soon as we can.

As always thank you for your cooperation, patience and understanding.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Sorcha Lyness'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Sorcha' written in a larger, more prominent script than the surname 'Lyness'.

Mrs Sorcha Lyness

Principal