



## ST. JOHN'S P.S GILFORD

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August 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope everyone is keeping safe and well and have enjoyed a lovely summer break. Firstly, I would like to say a special word of welcome to all our new pupils that are joining us this academic year along with Mr Niall McParland who will be teaching the Primary 5/6 class. We wish Mr McParland well in his new role and I have no doubt that he will have lots to offer us in St. John's.

As you are aware, things are slowly returning to normal, however the latest Covid-19 guidance received by schools from the Education Authority is still encouraging us to have our mitigation measures in place to maintain a safe environment for all. In keeping with this guidance, our classes will continue to operate in a 'bubble' system whilst indoors, however they will be able to mix whilst outdoors.

Our start/finish times will now revert back to a **9.00am** start for **all** classes with P.1 - P.3 children finishing at **2.00pm** (**P.1's will finish at 12noon for the month of September**) and all P.4-P.7 children finishing at **3.00pm**. Each bubble will however continue to use their designated entrance into/out of school as well as the playground.

### Entry/Exit Points:

- **Bubble 1** - P.1 (Mrs Lyness/Mrs McCrory) & P.2 (Mrs Power).  
P.1 will use the **Foundation Stage main door**.  
P.2 will use the **Foundation Stage back door**.
- **Bubble 2** - P.3 (Mr King) & P.4/5 (Mrs Grimley).  
This bubble will use the **main building back door**.
- **Bubble 3** - P.5/6 (Mr McParland) & P.7 (Miss McCarthy).  
This bubble will use the **main building front door**.

In order to help us maintain as safe an environment as possible, we ask that there is **no loitering** around the school gate or entrances and that children come to school at the allocated time **only**. The school building will open from **8.50am** each morning **and not before** so unfortunately early drop offs before this time **cannot** be accommodated.

### Uniform:

Children are again asked to wear a fresh school uniform each day. To help parents with this request we are asking that children alternate between their full school uniform and their P.E uniform. To facilitate this, **full school uniform** must be worn by **all classes** on **Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's** & **P.E uniform** on **Tuesday's & Thursday's**. Children should wear their P.E uniform to school on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August.

### Safety measures around our school:

- Hand-sanitiser stations can be found at all entrances and exits which everyone must use when entering/leaving the premises
- Regular hand washing will be encouraged in all classes throughout the day
- Appropriate signage is displayed around the school building
- There will be an encouragement of social distancing (where possible) between pupils
- 2m social distancing (where possible) will be kept between adults & adult and child.

### Additional measures:

- School dinners will be available from **1<sup>st</sup> Sept** and **must** be paid for through our online payment App – **EZPayments**. Cash can **no longer** be accepted. **All P.2-7 pupils will be required to take a lunch on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> Aug.**
- Parents are asked **not** to enter the school building (unless to report to the school office) and to keep a 2m distance from others when queuing up for drop off/collection. An **exception** will be made to parents of **P.1** children during their first week at school **only where necessary**.
- Should parents wish to make contact with their child's class teacher, we ask you to phone the school office to leave a message or arrange an appointment.

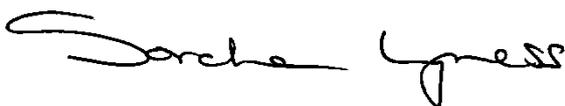
Children may bring their own pencil case/school bag to school along with their healthy break, water bottle and lunch. Other items **must not** be brought in unless specifically requested to do so by a member of staff.

It is imperative that we hold **up to date** contact numbers for all children. A data collection form will also be given home with each child on **1<sup>st</sup> Sept** and again must be returned **asap**.

In order to help with the additional hygiene practices, we are asking each **family to** please donate **2 packets of antibacterial surface wipes**. We would appreciate if these are brought in on **1<sup>st</sup> Sept** or as soon afterwards.

As always, we greatly appreciate everyone's ongoing support. I hope you all enjoy the rest of the summer and we very much look forward to welcoming everyone back to St. John's.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Sorcha Lyness  
Principal