



St Matthew's Primary School
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Principal : Mrs AM Kealey BA Hons (ED) PQH NI

30/06/2021

Dear Parents

I can't believe that it is the end of another school year. Little did we know that a full year on, Covid would still be having a big impact on the lives of our children, our school community and in the bigger world too!

I really do hope that the new school year will allow a relaxation of the restrictions and we will be able to see our school return to the way we like it.

So, for now, we are planning for a return to normal in September. This means that children will be allowed to refill water bottles at our water fountain, lunch boxes and school bags will be allowed and hopefully, children will be able to integrate with other children outside of their class bubbles.

THAT IS OUR PLAN.

However, the Government and The Education Authority will update schools during the Summer holidays about our return to school. If we need to keep any specific measures in place, I will write to you during the Summer to let you know.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, on behalf of all the staff and Governors, for your continued support throughout this academic school year which has certainly been a challenging one.

Having the ability to count on your support has made the past year as successful as it possibly could be. I must also take the opportunity to thank my amazing team of staff here at St. Matthew's who, as always, have worked incredibly hard both in class with your children and behind the scenes.

Please find outlined below some important information relating to starting back to school in September. Please keep this information somewhere safe over the Summer break. A copy of it will also be found on our school website under the section 'School letters'.

Small enough to care, Big enough to inspire

Starting back to school

School will start back for all pupils on **Wednesday 1st September** at normal time. P1 there will be a staggered intake.

Our School Day

Year 1 ,2 and Year 3	start 9 a.m. finish 2:30 p.m.
Years 4 – 7	start 9 a.m. finish 3 p.m.

Contact Details and Pick Up Lists

It is really important that we have the correct contact information for all parents and carers. If these change over the Summer, please inform school as soon as the children return.

Please advise the class teacher or school office if there is someone different picking up your child.

School Uniform

In preparation for returning to school, please ensure that your child has the correct full school uniform. During summer weather girls can wear **red gingham dresses**, boys can wear grey school shorts and white polo shirts. During the colder weather girls can wear red or grey tights. Leggings are not part of school uniform and therefore not allowed to be worn by girls.

Children can wear black pumps or trainers indoors and for PE. **Children must change into their indoors on arrival at school.**

Please put your child's name on each piece of uniform.

Exceptional Closure

In order to support parents / carers with child care arrangements, I will endeavour to inform you of exceptional closures as far in advance as possible. Our first exceptional closure (Staff Development Afternoon) will be on **Friday 1st October**. School will close at 1pm on that day for all children.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club will be available again next academic year and will start on **Wednesday 1st September**. The cost for breakfast club will be £1 per day.

Children can attend breakfast club from 8:00am each morning, however, **children must arrive before 8:30am in order to be served a breakfast.**

Eileen O' Connor will be retiring as Breakfast Club supervisor and I would like to thank her from all of us for her support and amazing job she did every morning. We'll miss your jolly smile in the mornings Eileen but glad you'll still be with us for lunch times.

Eileen will be replaced by Paula Rodgers who will be our new Breakfast Club supervisor. We would like to welcome Paula to our St. Matthew's school team.

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School Dinners

Children are able to avail of school dinners on a daily basis at St. Matthew's Primary School. From September school dinners will cost £2.60 per day, if we receive notification during the summer that this price may increase we will let you know.

Payment should be sent into school on a Monday morning for the total amount for the coming week with the child's name and class clearly marked on the envelope. School money pouches can be purchased from the school office at a cost of £4 per pack.

Classroom Arrangements for September 2021

P1/2 Mrs Vail
P2/3 Mrs Mc Gurk
P4/5 Mrs Knox
P6/7 Miss Mallon/Mrs Kealey

Finally, I'd like to say that we are all proud of your children and would like to congratulate them on completing a very successful school year. You can be very proud of them and how they represent their families and their school every day!

I would also like to wish our Primary Seven leavers the very best of luck in their new schools and future endeavours. We hope that you have all taken with you very fond memories of your years spent here at St. Matthew's!

Have a safe and amazing summer break everyone.

We look forward to welcoming you all back here on **Wednesday 1st September** to begin another year full of educational activities and learning opportunities.

God bless and look after yourselves,

Mrs Ann-Marie Kealey

Principal

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