

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to our new school year in P5/6! I am very much looking forward to working with you and your child as we embark on school life again after a very strange end to our last school term. I will be supported in this role by my very able colleague, Miss Clare McGale, who will be the classroom assistant in P5/6 this year. Many of your children will have had me as their class teacher and Clare as their classroom assistant before and we hope they are as excited as us to be working with them again. We will spend the next few weeks getting to know everyone and are hopeful for a great year ahead. We would like to share the following information with you and will keep you updated if there are any changes.

Procedures:

We have spaced pupils in seating arrangements all facing forward. Adults will remain the safe distance as recommended but if children need support we will be sensitive with this. Our aim is that our pupils feel comfortable and safe in our care.

All P5/6 pupils will enter and exit the school via the red double doors, at the top of the ramp, at the back of the school. From this door, they can then enter the classroom. When dropping off and collecting your child from the P5/6 class please follow the one-way system around the exterior of the school building. Parents are asked to remain at the bottom of the ramp and maintain social distancing at all times.

Pupils will use the automatic hand sanitiser as they enter the classroom and are also encouraged to wash their hands in the P5/6 wash basins before class begins. Queues may form while pupils wait to wash their hands, so we encourage your children to be patient during this time.

Schoolbags can be placed on the back of pupils' chairs or under their desks. Lunchboxes, snacks and a **non-spill** water bottle should be kept in their school bags. Some coats can be hung up on the limited number of hooks outside the classroom, but if there are no hooks available your child should hang their coat over the back of their chair.

Pupils will wash their hands regularly throughout the day, including before and after eating. Staff will encourage and monitor this.

All pupils will have their own tray or basket under their desk. The tray will be kept at their table and contains stationery, books and other resources needed for that day.

We recommend that pupils come to school in a clean uniform each day.

Our PE day will be Wednesday in Term 1. On this day, your child should come to school in their PE gear. They do not need to bring a change of clothes with them.

Money for dinners etc... should be in a sealed envelope with your child's name on it. These will be collected in a container by the teacher at the beginning of each day.

P5/6 staff will be responsible for cleaning tables, chairs and other high contact touch points regularly throughout the day.

If your child is unwell, please keep them at home. If a child feels unwell in school, we will phone the first contact. A child who is unwell will be moved to the designated area (the mobile) and accompanied by an adult. When a parent arrives, they phone the school office and the child will be brought to the gate. If the symptoms are Covid related, we will also send siblings home and we ask

that parents have their child tested as soon as possible. If Covid is confirmed, all pupils in the affected classes will self-isolate for 10 days.

Homework:

Homework will begin on Monday 7th September. Each pupil will have their own homework books sent home each night. We will go through the homework together each morning and their books will either be stamped or a comment written on a sticky note to limit contact. Reading for the week will be given on a Monday. When reading books are ready to be changed, books will be left in a holding box for several days prior to being shared with any other child. It may take several days to establish the most suitable reading level for your child, so don't be alarmed if your child doesn't have a reading book on the week when homework begins.

Monday- Spelling, mental maths, reading & comprehension

Tuesday- Spelling, mental maths, reading and numeracy

Wednesday- Spelling, mental maths, reading and grammar/punctuation

Thursday- Spelling, mental maths, reading and numeracy

We also endeavour to introduce some online homework activities throughout the year so that in the event of another lock-down children are familiar with accessing work online.

Positive Behaviour

Positive behaviour will be promoted through the use of our 'trampoline' behaviour system. Pupils will bounce on reward for following all school rules, which are displayed in our classroom and will be talked through with your child. Pupils will earn Golden Time each day (30 mins per week) based on remaining on reward. Pupils may 'bounce' unto choice if they aren't following school rules, however we will always give pupils a verbal reminder before this. The 'choice' trampoline will act as 'thinking time'. They will be encouraged to bounce back to reward by making better choices. 'Consequence' is the third trampoline. Pupils will land here if they continue to ignore the rules and the opportunity to make a better choice. Golden time minutes for that day will not be earned for a pupil who lands here. If a child lands on consequence three times in a week Mrs Daly will be informed. We will also keep you as the parent informed in that instance.

Pupils have also the opportunity to earn house points which will earn them in class and whole house team rewards.

We will issue a class newsletter each half-term on our website and you will also receive information about how we hope to use Microsoft Teams in the coming weeks and months.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to getting to know your child, making our class a fun, safe, learning environment and to working in partnership with you to the best of our ability.

Many thanks,

Gary McKenna.