

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to our new school year in P4/5. I am very much looking forward to working with you and your child as we embark on school life again after a very strange school year last year. I will spend the next few weeks getting to know everyone and am hopeful for a great year ahead. I would like to share the following information with you and will keep you updated if there are any changes.

**Procedures:**

Pupils will sit in table groups of between 4 and 6, now that they no longer have to sit separately facing forward. We will follow all the latest guidelines with regards to covid regulations, making sure to hand sanitize regularly and the school will keep you informed if there is a positive covid result in our class. I will try to remain a safe distance from children when possible, and will wear a face covering when working in close proximity to your child. My aim is that our pupils feel comfortable and safe in our care.

All P4/5 pupils will enter and exit the school via the red door, at the front of the building labelled P4/5 entrance. When dropping off and collecting your child from the P4/5 class, please follow the one-way system around the exterior of the school building. Parents are asked to remain at the bottom of the steps and maintain social distancing at all times.

Pupils will wash their hands as they enter the classroom and are also encouraged to wash their hands regularly throughout the day. Pupils will also wash their hands before and after eating. Staff will encourage and monitor this.

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. Coats can be hung up on the hooks outside the toilets.

All pupils will have their own tray under their desk or near to their desk. The tray will contain their 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 Tuesday and Friday 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.

Mrs Sweeney will teach tin whistle on a Monday which costs £1 per week so it is important children bring their whistles and notes to school every Monday. They should also try to practise at home each week.

**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.

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. If Covid is confirmed, parents of the class will be informed and advised accordingly.

## **Homework:**

Homework will begin on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> 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 be marked daily and either be stamped, a comment written or ticked. Reading will be heard at least twice per week but your child should read every night even when not being heard the next day.

Monday- Spelling, mental maths, reading & comprehension (from the 'A Way With Words' book)

Tuesday- Spelling, mental maths, reading and numeracy- (Mental Arithmetic books)

Wednesday- Spelling, mental maths, reading and grammar/punctuation (from the 'A Way With Words' book)

Thursday- Spelling, mental maths, reading and numeracy (from the Maths Challenge books)

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, via SeeSaw. I will also try to post the homework on a daily basis on SeeSaw and post examples of work being done in class throughout the year. If you haven't yet returned the SeeSaw consent form, please do so at your earliest convenience.

## **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 rewards.

Thank you for your support and I 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 my ability.

Many thanks,

Gary McKenna.