Dear Parents.

Now that everyone has settled in to their classes, this is just an update on the ever changing guidance from Stormont and the out-workings of that in our school setting.

**Breakfast club** is now up and running from 8.15 until 8.50 daily. Last serving at 8.45am. Club costs £1 per day or £4 per week. Children can choose from a selection of breakfast items including healthy cereals, toast, pancakes, yoghurt. Fruit juices, milk, water and tea.

Supervision will be available from 8.30am in the classroom.

We would ask parents to ensure that all children are in school for 9am to allow classes to start promptly.

**After School Club** The cost will be £2 per day or £8 for a full week. The After School Club will run every day throughout the year unless it is a half day. Children receive a snack and a drink and engage in fun activities during After school club. The cost of school meals is now £2.60 per day. £13 per week. Please make any cheques payable to the EA Western Region. (Menu has been sent home to all families.) Parents can pay on a daily or weekly basis.

All children can bring school bags to school and from P3 – P7, should have their own pencils and stationery. Class teachers will inform pupils of their PE days and on those days, pupils can wear their PE gear to school. The current Public Health Guidance given to schools asks us not to allow children to change into PE gear as yet. Please ensure every item of uniform, including PE gear, is clearly labelled. **Home time**: Classes will leave the school through different exits as we did last year. It would be helpful if those collecting children are on time for collection and disperse as quickly as possible. Please observe the one-way system around the school and be patient with other drivers at the parking area.

**Homework** routines are back to normal. Guidance around books and stationery coming in and out of school has been changed and this means we will be able to resume our normal routine regarding home work. Children have homework every night from Monday through to Thursday.

**Remote Learning**: You may remember we used Seesaw and Teams last year for Remote Learning and we have this set up again this year but we hope that we won’t have to use it! Only if a complete class are self-isolating will we revert to online teaching.

**Reading:** Children should read every night whether or not it is marked on their book and are encouraged to choose library books for additional reading at home. The reading marked on a child’s homework book should be considered the minimum they are expected to read. Encourage children to read other books and magazines and children from Year 3 up to take part in Accelerated reading. **Spellings** should be learnt every night and not left until Thursday night as this may pass the spelling test but will not commit them to memory properly.

Normally children will have Literacy/spelling homework on a Monday and Wednesday night and Maths work on Tuesday and Thursday nights. Children from Year 2 upwards have a homework diary which parents are asked to check every evening. Children in Year One have no written homework initially. A small amount of written homework is introduced in after Halloween. This practice is in line with the Revised Curriculum and allows parents more time to read to, and with their child.

All children have access to ‘Mathletics’ which is an online maths programme which can be accessed on a phone, ipad or laptop. A reminder of the user name and password will be sent home in the next few weeks.

 If you have any concerns about your child’s homework it is very important that you speak to the class teacher or myself. Don’t sit on problems, come and talk to someone. Encourage your child to establish good homework routines early in the year, completing homework as soon as they come home from school with no TV on! Tin Whistle lessons re commence on Monday 13th September.

**Music:** Pupils will need to have a ‘D’ tin whistle. If you have difficulty getting this, please contact Marie or Fiona in the office where you can purchase a tin whistle for £5. All children in Years 1-7 learn the Tin Whistle and are asked to bring £1 for Tin Whistle lessons every Monday. Lessons start for Year 1 on 11th October. We greatly appreciate your cooperation with this.

**Healthy Eating:** Our school operates a Healthy Break Policy and children are asked to bring fruit, raw vegetables, or an alternative healthy break to school. Children will not be permitted to eat chocolate, crisps etc. at break time. Fizzy drinks are not allowed in school or on trips at any time. Children are encouraged to bring water to school and drink it in class at any time. Bottles with sports lids are preferable as they don’t spill as easily.

**Positivity:** We have a number of notice boards in school which are used to celebrate the achievements of children outside school. If you have any photos of your child participating in a hobby they enjoy or with medals and awards for Irish dancing, boxing, horse riding, gaelic, music etc please send them in for display. If not, please send in the awards and we will take the photos.

In school we look for reasons to positively affirm good behaviour, good work, good effort, friendliness, kindness, tidiness and any aspect of positive behaviour. We reward children with praise, stickers, house points, treats and other awards.

We are vigilant for pupils who may not be in good form, physically or mentally. A pastoral and nurturing approach is adopted at all times.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of your child’s welfare, please contact the class teacher or myself and we will be happy to do everything we can to help.

Attendance: As always, parents should inform the school of the reason for a child’s absence. This year in particular, we would appreciate a quick phonecall so that we can plan accordingly.

We are extremely grateful for the cooperative way parents are working with us. I assure you that we are doing everything we can to keep everyone safe, happy and learning and to make school life as ‘normal’ as possible.

God bless

Briege Daly