

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST P. S.

38 Roscor Lane,
Carrenbeg,
Roscor,
Belleek,
Co. Fermanagh,
BT93 3DP



Principal: Miss Aideén McGarrigle B. Ed. (hons) MSc
Telephone: 028 686 58484
email: amcgarrigle204@c2ken.net / info@stjohnbaptist.enniskillen.ni.sch.uk
website: www.stjohnthebaptistroscor.co.uk

27th August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to express how blessed I feel to take up the position of Principal and teacher for the forthcoming year in St. John the Baptist Primary School. 😊 I look forward in anticipation and relish the opportunity to get to meet your child/children and to work with you all throughout the forthcoming year. 😊 😊 😊

We wish Miss O'Shea well in all her endeavours for the year ahead.

As we enter this new school year we are mindful of the continued rise of Covid cases in our area and more generally across Northern Ireland. The Department of Education has updated its guidance to schools for reopening.

All school measures will be constantly monitored and reviewed in line with Public Health advice.

Morning Arrival

Children are welcome to attend school after 8:45am and should not be left unsupervised prior to this time. Class starts at 9am and children should be punctual.

Children can be dropped off outside the school gates and walk through the school grounds to go straight to their classroom.

Mrs Sinclair's P1-3 children should go directly to their classroom mobile.

Miss McGarrigle's P4-5 children should enter the school building by the main door and go to the classroom.

Mrs Brown's P6-7 children should go directly to their classroom mobile.

Parents are asked not to come up to, or enter the school building.

An exception will be made for P1 parents for the initial days to accompany their child.

Parents are reminded to maintain a social distance of 2m and to wear face masks.

Hand washing and Tissues

Children will undertake the handwashing regime 5 times a day: arrival in morning, before and after break time, before and after lunchtime.

If possible could you please provide a box of tissues. Thank you in advance.



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End of school day times

P1	12:30pm (settling in policy)
P2 and P3	2pm
P4 and P5	2:45pm
P6 and P7	2:45pm

Teachers will bring children to the exit point.

Adults are reminded of social distancing and wearing masks. Parents are not permitted to enter the school to collect children.

Travelling Home Arrangements / Absenteeism

Please can any changes to travel home arrangements be notified in writing or by phone call to the school office.

Dinners / Lunches

I would like to emphasise the importance of healthy breaks and lunches. Crisps, chocolate and fizzy drinks are not considered healthy options.

School dinner prices remains at £2.60 per day from September 1st. Milk will commence Wednesday 1st September. Please advise if your child wishes to take milk this year if you haven't already done so. Please can outstanding milk money arrears be paid in full.

School Dinner: September £57.20, Weekly £13.00 (per child), Daily £2.60 (per child)

Milk: September: £4.40 Year £36.20 (per child)

School Funds: Per family £25

It has not yet been possible to implement cashless payment procedures for school meals or other school activities. If you are sending cash to school with your child, we would ask you to place it in an envelope or wrapping which is labelled clearly showing the child's name and class and what the payment is for. We ask that the exact amount is sent in. Change will not be given. This may reduce the potential spread of the virus.

Dinners must be paid for the week and must be paid on a Monday.

Money will be handed up at register time. Please tell your child if you have money for them to hand in.

Please note, packs of money envelopes are available from the office at £1 per bundle.

Please contact Cathy and some can be sent home for your use.



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Covid – 19 Symptoms

If your child is experiencing the following symptoms, they must remain at home:

- A new and persistent cough
- Raised temperature
- A loss or change in taste / smell

From our experiences, other symptoms not related to Covid have emerged. In all cases if a child is feeling unwell we will make a call for a parent / carer to take them home immediately. We will advise you to book a Covid test and to let the school know the outcome of the test.

If a child tests positive while at school, parents should collect the child and any siblings immediately.

If waiting on a PCR test result, a child should not come to school.

Positive cases and close contacts

If a child tests positive while in class, all children in the class will be sent home. Parents will be advised to book a PCR test. If a negative result comes back, children may return to school immediately. If a positive result is confirmed, children must self-isolate for a ten day period beginning from the onset of symptoms.

From 16th August, those who have had both doses of a Covid vaccine and who are in close contact with a positive case do not need to self-isolate unless symptoms appear. Please see PHA website for detailed information.

PE and Well-being

We will spend time settling children back into school and in forming friendships within classes. All staff members are aware and sensitive that the return to school may be difficult for some. We will provide support and reassurance to every child as they return to class. The Department of Education has recommended that children have 2 hours of PE per week. We will advise what days PE will take place in due course so as children know to wear their PE uniform.

Teaching and Learning

For the first few days, teachers will be finding a new baseline for where children are in their learning. It is from that point they will be able to identify and build new learning in order for all children to attain, progress and succeed. The focus for learning will concentrate on the following areas:

Learning through Play based activity

Literacy - Talking and Listening, Reading, Writing, Phonics

Maths - Number and Number bonds

PE



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We are available by telephone and email should you have any worries or want to talk to a teacher. Teachers will not be available during the teaching day but can follow up with a call at the end of the school day.

Parents are reminded that children must not bring in anything from home, except their water bottle labelled with their name for their classroom and their lunchbox.

Homework and Home-School Communication

Each teacher will advise accordingly in relation to school homework in due course. School homework will commence on Monday 6th September. We will be setting up new class groupings on the Seesaw app, previous classes will be archived, children and family members will receive new login details.

Public Health Agency

All measures to combat Covid-19 will remain in place. In the case of any close contacts or confirmed cases we will act in accordance with procedures from the Public Health Agency to minimise potential spread.

If your child feels unwell they must remain at home. If they display flu-like symptoms at school, a call will be made to take them home.

As stated at the beginning, measures will be monitored and reviewed. We continue to take a cautious approach and ask that parents / carers support us as we aim to provide a stable learning environment for all children. There may be bumps in the road ahead so we ask for your co-operation and patience.

Other Information

In the post you will receive some information sheets on dinners and milk monies for the year, a new dinner menu, holiday listings and Seesaw.

- **Data Collection – Please check email and telephone numbers sign and return (per child)**
- **Text Consent – sign and return (per family)**
- **Use of Images – P1 Children only**

Daily Mile Makes You Smile

To commence and throughout the following year we will avail of opportunities to participate in exercising/moving for the duration of a mile. This may take place inside our school grounds or along the back road. We might even visit the new car wash on Thursday to wish our past pupil many days of bubbles and money ahead! (Should you not grant permission for your child to participate in the daily mile, please write a message on seesaw.)



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I would like to thank the staff for their warm welcome and hard work in preparation for this academic year. We look forward to seeing you all and welcoming your children back at school on Wednesday, 1st September. Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine! 😊 😊 😊

Regards

Miss A. McGarrigle

Principal

