



Our Lady and St Patrick, Bunscoil Mhuire agus Phádraig



Parent Update

March 2021

Please see below some very important updates regarding the school day, clubs and general school life.

Full School Return

We are delighted to welcome all our pupils back for face to face learning from Monday 22nd March 2021.

We have worked extremely hard to prepare for the return of our pupils and our recovery curriculum for Primary / Rang 4-7 will focus on Health and Wellbeing, creativity and physical activity until Easter.

For Primary / Rang 1-3 pupils will continue as before and as they continue to settle in their work will increase.

In order for this to run as smoothly as possible we have put the following measures in place.

School Timings

Due to the earlier than expected return of all pupils we have amended P/R 1-3 pupils drop off and pick up timings slightly.

Start Times (drop off)

8.45am – Primary 4-7

9.00am - Primary 1-3 and Rang 1-7

Pick Up Times

2.00pm- Primary 1-2 and Rang 1-2 (Fri 1.50pm)

2.55pm P / R 3 (Mon – Wed) 1.55pm (Thurs – Fri)

2.55pm R4 (Mon – Thurs) 1.55pm (Friday)

2.45pm P4-7 and Rang 5-7 (Fri 2pm)

Drop off and Pick up times are under constant review and we will update all parents on any changes as soon as possible.

Please Note

- There will be no Breakfast Club following the Education Ministers Guidelines.
- Children **will not** be permitted in school before 8.30am as there is no supervision in place.
- At 8.30am we will offer **outdoor** supervision for pupils in **Year Group Bubbles**.
- Bus children will go home at their original designated times.

Drop off and Pick Up Locations

- Drop off will be at the main school gate or at the end of the path. The one-way system will remain in place.
- Pick- ups will take place on the front yard of the school and we ask parents to arrive as close to their pick up times as possible. Parents are asked to walk up the path, socially distancing and follow the arrows through the playground. Pupils will be lined up with their class and sent to parents as they walk along the line. Parents and children will then use the one-way system to exit the school grounds. We ask all parents to stay between the yellow lines.
- We would ask all parents to wear masks and to keep moving to ensure there is no overcrowding.

Important Information

- **Dinners:** Will operate as normal in school with hot meals provided for pupils wishing to attend.
- **Buses:** The Yellow Bus and the Town Service Bus will operate as usual.
- **Work Packs:** As we are returning to school there will be no further work packs issued.
- **Homework:** There will be no homework until after the Easter Holidays to help pupils settle back into school and to ensure they are fresh for their learning experiences in school.
- **School Bags:** At present school bags are still not permitted in school. Therefore, we request all lunches to be sent in disposable bags. This will remain under review and follow guidance from DE.

What to do if your child develops C-19 Symptoms.

As you are aware Covid-19 is prevalent in this area. We would ask parents to be mindful of this with regard to school. Please note that the school will only contact parents if one of the following two situations arises:

- 1 – A child in a particular class tests positive- then all families within that class will be informed.
- 2 – A member of staff tests positive- then all families in the school will be notified.

Important Dates

Wednesday 31st March – TUCK Shop

Thursday 1st April – School Closes at 11am for Easter Holidays

Monday 12th April – School reopens for Term 3

Get school updates via your phone

Our school is now listed in the **Schools NI** app, which allows you to view school updates and receive messages via your phone or tablet. The app is available on both Apple and Android devices, and will give you access to our school news, calendar events and letters.

To install the app, open <https://www.ourladyandstpatrickpsdownpatrick.com/> on your phone or tablet and click the 'Download App' button that appears at the top of the screen.

We look forward to seeing all our pupils on Monday 22nd March.
Remember we are always here to help and if we continue to work together we will ensure a bright future for all our pupils.
Take care and stay safe.



Thank you for your continued support.