



ST AGNES Catholic Primary School

With Jesus beside us, we do our best

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Headteacher: Ms B McDaid

16th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We made it. Thank you for all your support this year. On Monday (the children's last day) we will finish at the same time they have been finishing up to now. There are no changes. The children will also find out who their new teachers are on that day.

Looking forward to the new academic year, the current advice from the Department for Education states:

- The 'Bubble' system will end for all children under 18, social distancing will no longer be necessary and schools will not need to stagger start and finish times. **This means that Nursery will eventually come in at 8.50 am entering school through the alleyway and go home at 11.50 am, if part time via, the carpark. Full time nursery children will leave at 3.20pm via the alleyway exit. All other classes will start and exit from the alleyway and their hours will be from 9.00 am – 3.30 pm. You will now be able to bring your children into the playground and wait with them at their classroom door.**
- NHS Test and Trace will carry out contact tracing and schools will no longer be required to do this. Those identified as close contacts will be advised to take a PCR test and only need to isolate if they test positive. Children must self-isolate if they have symptoms of Covid-19 or a positive test result.

Testing for close contacts under 18 will be split into two categories:

All Primary, Secondary and College age children should take a single PCR test.

Early Years children should only take a PCR test if a member of their household tests positive.

- All school trips, drama, music and sporting activity will be able to resume in line with the relaxation of restrictions across society from Step 4. We will begin school swimming for Y4-Y6.
- The legal requirement to self-isolate for contacts of a positive case will end for everyone aged under 18 and for adults who have been fully vaccinated.
- Protective measures will remain in place for the autumn term in all education settings including practicing good hygiene, ventilation and regular testing until the end of September to strike a balance between relaxing restrictions and minimising further disruption to children's education.

- Only those who test positive will need to self-isolate.
- Teachers who are fully vaccinated can remain in school if a close contact tests positive.
- The Government will review testing requirements by the end of September.

All these measures will very much depend on hospitalisation rates and as, we know, we may have to revert back quickly to bubbles etc. if there appears to be such a need. **Be aware that we may contact you, prior to returning in September if the situation worsens with different arrangements.**

I have also attached to this letter a copy of the school uniform so that we can remind everyone that from September, children need to come to school in full uniform. Children can once again bring in book bags. Remember children are not allowed to wear earrings in school. Children can wear their PE kit on the day of PE to minimise disruption. The exceptions are Reception who will bring their PE kit with them as part of their curriculum is dressing and undressing and Y5, who for the first term, will bring in their swimming kit.

PE TIMETABLE

Reception	Monday
Y1	Monday
Y2	Tuesday
Y3	Thursday
Y4	Wednesday
Y5	Friday Swimming
Y6	Friday

As well as healthy lifestyles, the school will have a greater focus on healthy eating next year. As you know all children at St. Agnes (apart from Nursery) are entitled to a **free** school dinner. Nursery have packed lunch only. Some other classes choose a packed lunch and in order to ensure that this also promotes our healthy eating agenda I have enclosed our new packed lunch policy and summary sheet. This will take effect from September 2021.

The DfE has informed us that as a result of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations marking 70 years of service, schools must reduce the minimum number of sessions in school from 190 days to 189 days. This means that next year, the **children's last day will be Tuesday 19th July** as opposed to Wednesday 20th July.

We are very sad to say goodbye to some staff. Mr Jones is retiring after working 33 years in the school. Ms O'Garro and Kim Duffy will also be leaving at the end of this academic year and we wish them well in their new endeavours. All will be greatly missed.

The first day of the new academic year for Reception to Y6 will be **Thursday 2nd September**. I know we are all hoping for a much better year.

Thank you once again for all your support. I hope you have a lovely holiday – when it comes – avoiding all red and amber countries!!!

With best wishes



Brid McDaid
HEADTEACHER