

# Derrychrin Primary School

30 Drumenny Road, Coagh, Cookstown, Co Tyrone BT80 0BX

Tel: (028) 8673 7456

Principal: Mr Ciaran McElroy



Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

## Welcome

We would like to welcome everyone back to a new school year and we hope that 2021/22 is a happy and enjoyable year in Derrychrin PS. I wish you and your children every blessing for the new school year and look forward to lots of happiness, laughter and learning in the months ahead.

A special welcome to our new P1 pupils who have settled into life at Derrychrin with ease and we hope they all have a happy and fulfilling time at Derrychrin Primary School.

Sincere thanks again to everyone who have given me such a warm welcome since taking up my new post as Principal. It has been a great week meeting all the pupils, parents and family members. I am looking forward to continuing and building upon the great work that has been going on in Derrychrin PS over many years, ensuring the children continue to have a happy and wonderful primary school experience.

## P1 Information

Our Primary 1 children have settled into school life at Derrychrin with ease. From next week we would ask all parents to allow the children to enter the school building and walk to their classrooms independently where they will be greeted in their classroom by their class teacher and classroom assistant.

Can we remind all P1 parents, if your child is taking school dinners to please send in the correct money (£2.60) in a sealed envelope clearly labelled. If your child is taking a packed lunch can you, please send a note to inform the class teacher Mrs Tohill.

## P7 Transfer Test Information

Registration closing date for GL Transfer Test assessment which takes place in November 2021 is **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 2pm**. You can download the registration pack from St. Mary's Grammar School, Magherafelt website [www.stmarysmagherafelt.com](http://www.stmarysmagherafelt.com)

## Limiting Visitors

For everyone's safety, parents, visitors and members of the public are **not permitted** to enter into the school building unless in exceptional circumstances or by prior appointment. Where parents are admitted into the school building, it should be conducted safely, observing social distancing and hygiene measures. This is of vital importance to protect and ensure the health, safety and well-being of everyone in our school and wider school community.

If you need to speak to class teachers, we ask that you do so by telephone. We ask for your full co-operation with this requirement and please understand this is for the safety of all.



Email: [info@derrychrin.cookstown.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@derrychrin.cookstown.ni.sch.uk) Website: [www.derrychrinps.org](http://www.derrychrinps.org) Twitter: @DerrychrinPS

## Morning Drop Off

Pupil entrance doors:

P1/P2/P4/P6 pupils will continue use the back door at the P1 and P2 playground.

P3/P5/P7 pupils will continue to use the main school entrance door.

In the morning Mr McElroy will monitor the main entrance door and Miss McVey will monitor the back door entrance as the pupils are welcomed into school.

## Home Collection

P1 and P2 pupils can be collected from the back P1 and P2 playground.

P3-P7 pupils can be collected from the staff car park. The pupils will line up in this area and then dismissed by their class teacher.

Pupils who have permission to walk home, will be walked safely to the footpath outside the school grounds by Mr McElroy or a class teacher.

Adults should park safely in the school yard. We would kindly ask adults to leave their vehicle to collect their child/children from the cones area separating the staff car park and the school playground. This will ensure the safety of all pupils, staff and school community.

We would like to thank everyone for following all the safety guidelines when dropping the children off in the morning and at home collection. We would like to remind all adults not to congregate in groups at entrance or exit gates/doors and to always follow the PHA guidelines, wear a face covering and observe social distancing at all times.

## COVID Information

### **COVID-19 Symptoms**

If your child is displaying any of the symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home and follow the latest Public Health advice.

#### ***Symptoms of Covid-19 include:-***

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back, or;
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual), or;
- **anosmia** - the loss or a change in your normal sense of smell (it can also affect your sense of taste)

If any child presents as unwell, the school has a non-contact thermometer which may be used. The child will be brought to an individual room where they can wait in isolation with a member of staff while medical advice is sought, and parents/guardians contacted. The staff member will remain with the child until collected.

If there is a confirmed case of someone in the school having the COVID-19 Virus, the school will follow the latest PHA and DE advice.

COVID procedures and routines are in place for everyone and we will continue to follow guidelines outlined by the Public Health Agency, EA and DE.



## Data Capture Collection Form

In order to update all pupil records, it is important for all our parents especially our new P1 parents to complete the pupil data collection form on the school website homepage. There has been a fantastic response to date but we would like to remind any parent who has still complete the form to do so ASAP. One form must be completed for each child to ensure all pupil details are up to date.

## Pupil Absence

If a child is absent for any reason, parents/guardians should notify the school, explaining their absence by using the '**Report Pupil Absence**' button on our school website.

If your child tests positive for COVID or is displaying COVID symptoms, parents/guardians should inform the school immediately using our school email address [info@derrychrin.cookstown.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@derrychrin.cookstown.ni.sch.uk) or contacting the school by telephone on 028 8673 7456

## School Website

We aim to use our school website [www.derrychrinps.org](http://www.derrychrinps.org) as the main communication link with the whole school community. We would encourage everyone to visit the website as it will be updated regularly with key information, news, events, photos, videos, children's achievements and experiences.

Parents should have received a SMS text message from the school website team to verify their details to receive future notifications via the SCHOOLS NI app. If you have experienced any issues regarding this matter, please contact the school office.

## Nut allergy / Food Allergies

We would like to remind parents/guardians of the seriousness of NUT / FOOD ALLERGY conditions and we would encourage that no foods containing nuts or that may contain traces of nuts / nut products, such as peanut butter or nutella sandwiches, etc be brought into school. Your co-operation supports the school in monitoring the situation and protects the well-being of all our pupils and staff.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Staff Development Day:** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September. School will be closed to facilitate staff training.

**Beginning of Year Prayer Service:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. Fr. Donnelly will celebrate the beginning of the new school year for all pupils and staff with an outdoor prayer service.

**Tin Whistle Lessons:** Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Tin whistle lessons with Donal Canavan will commence for all P5/P6/P7 pupils.

**PE Lessons:** Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September. PE Lessons with David Mulgrew will commence for P2-P7 pupils

Yours sincerely  
Mr Ciaran McElroy  
Principal

