



St Dallan's Primary School

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Dear Parents/Guardians

We hope you enjoyed the Summer holidays and are delighted to welcome you back to another school year. For our new parents, a special welcome; we hope you and your child will have a positive experience whilst at St Dallan's. We are writing this letter, in the absence of any guidance from the Department of Education, to give you as much information as quickly as possible on the school restart. There may be slight adjustments if and when guidance comes in. If so, we will let you know as soon as possible.

Important Dates

As you know from our last letter in June, school will reopen for **Primary 2 to Primary 7** children on **Tuesday 31 August from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon**. During this time, the focus will be on pastoral needs and re-introduction into school life. Please note there will be no school meals on that day. Primary 1 children will follow the guidance and information which was sent out in June.

The full school day will resume from **Wednesday 1 September for all year groups**.

Arrival to School

There will no longer be staggered arrivals or dismissals. Can we ask that you please ensure that all children are in school ready for the start of the school day at **9.00 am**. Children may be dropped off from 8.35 am – until 9.00 am where they will be supervised in the classrooms.

Children should not be dropped off prior to 8.35 am as supervision IS NOT available.

Similar to last year, we will continue to use our various entrance/exit doors. These will be used for drop-off and collection every day. Sanitisation facilities will continue to be available at these points.

The allocated entrances/exits are as follows:

Class	Entrance / Exit
All Primary 1	Primary 1 yard door, initially
Primary 2: Mrs McGreevy	Mourne Drive
Primary 2: Mrs Doolan	External door at back of classroom
Primary 2: Miss Flynn	External door at back of classroom

Primary 3: Mrs Daly	Mourne Drive
Primary 3: Mrs Duffy	External door at back of classroom
Primary 4: Mr Rice	External door at the bottom of stairwell beneath their classrooms
Primary 4: Mrs O'Neill	External door at the bottom of stairwell beneath their classrooms
Primary 4: Mrs Treanor	External door at the bottom of stairwell beneath their classrooms
Primary 5: Miss Johnson	External door at the bottom of the stairwell beneath their classroom onto the Primary 1 yard
Primary 5: Mrs Fitzpatrick	External door at the bottom of the stairwell beneath their classroom onto the Primary 1 yard
Primary 6: Mrs Morgan	External door at the bottom of stairwell beneath their classrooms
Primary 6: Miss Dunne	External door at the bottom of stairwell beneath their classrooms
Primary 7: Miss Fegan	External door at the bottom of stairwell beneath their classrooms
Primary 7: Mrs Kelly	External door at the bottom of stairwell beneath their classrooms
Primary 7: Mrs Lunny	External door at the bottom of stairwell beneath their classrooms

The children from Primary 1, 2 and 3 will be dismissed at 2.00 pm and Primary 4, 5, 6 and 7 at 2.45 pm from the relevant doors/exits.

Current Restrictions in place due to COVID-19:

As you are aware, we are still living with COVID-19; therefore, the following mitigations will remain in place until further notice:

- Visitors – there is a ‘No visitor in school before 2.45 pm’ policy
- Well-ventilated rooms - windows will be open, especially when the children go out to play at break time (in order to refresh the air in the classroom)
- Cleaning – enhanced cleaning provision of rooms and shared areas will take place
- Handwashing and sanitising – children will wash and sanitise hands regularly
- Sanitising of pupils’ school bags, lunch boxes and water bottles – should take place before and after school by parents
- Lunch/dinner – will be scheduled in consistent groups
- Break/lunchtime play – will occur in year consistent groups
- No mixing of classes - other than during year group play (outside)
- Homework - to resume as normal; at least one online homework per week
- Parents will have reduced access to school. They have also been advised not to send their children to school if sick and if concerned, to seek medical advice.
- Track and trace - in place for visitors and classes should there be a confirmed case of COVID-19. All advice from the Public Health Authority is being followed.

These precautions are for the protection of pupils, staff, and the wider school community. We hope these can be removed at some point in the future.

School Meals

- School meals will be available each day from **Wednesday 1 September** – please book online using School Money, our cashless system
- School meals **must be** booked and paid for in advance by 12.00 midnight the night before at a cost of £2.60 per day
- **Please note, if your child is entitled to free school meals you must still book through the app**
- School menus will be published on the school website
- **Dinner money MUST NOT be sent to school. Please DO NOT** let dinner money go unpaid as the Education Authority does not allow us to be in arrears from week to week. The Education Authority have also advised us that they have the right to decline dinners to pupils whose payments are in arrears, except in exceptional circumstances.
- School meals will be served in the dining room and lunches will be eaten in the classrooms
- **Any parent who wishes to apply for free school meals/uniform grant or transport must apply online at: <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>**

Lunches

- Please provide your child with healthy lunch options (e.g. crackers & cheese, small yogurts, fresh fruit and water) as a healthy lunch affects a child's performance in the afternoons!
- Children are encouraged to drink water (in sports bottles, labelled with the child's name – provided by parents) throughout the day.
- Please note that sugary/fizzy drinks or sweets are NOT allowed in school as per our Healthy Food Policy.

Please note: we have number of children with severe nut allergies in school; therefore, no nut or nut products are allowed in school.

Healthy Breaks

As per our Healthy Food Policy, we follow a healthy break policy also. We offer this for the children in Primary 1 and 2. More details on this will follow.

Garden Room

Our Garden Room facility will reopen on **Monday 6 September from 2 pm until 2.45 pm** at a cost of £1.50. This needs to be booked in advance via our cashless system. A snack will be provided. The children will be dismissed from their allocated door/exit.

Sunflower Room

Our Sunflower Room facility will also reopen on **Monday 6 September from 2.45 pm until 4.15 pm**. This also needs to be booked in advance via our cashless system. A snack will be provided. Children may be collected via the external door onto the Primary 1 yard. All children planning to use this facility must register. Registration forms are available from the office.

Uniform

We encourage the children to wear their full school uniform except for days when they have P.E. when they can wear their tracksuit. The P.E. timetable will follow before the end of September.

Medication

Any child who has a medical condition, which requires medication and an associated care plan, must provide two sets of medication in a plastic box with their photograph clearly visible on the outside.

Communication

The school operates a texting/emailing service, please make sure that the school has an up to date mobile phone number and email address if you wish to receive these communications.

Holiday Sheet

This will be put up on the school website in the next few weeks.

At St Dallan's we are committed to following the Department of Education and Public Health Authority guidance. We appreciate your support and cooperation with the ongoing measures which continue to be in place. We will continue to review the situation over the coming weeks and will keep you continually updated.

We are very much looking forward to having the children back and we hope you enjoy the last week of the holidays.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs U Farrell
Principal