

Newsletter 27—Restart 2.0

11th April 2021



Weekly Services

Ballyhenry App—Available free from Google Play and App Store, get updates and reminders from school and submit homework for feedback via the app.

THIS IS ESSENTIAL AS THIS IS HOW WE WILL LET YOU KNOW IF A CLASS OR CLASSES NEED TO REMAIN AT HOME AND SELF-ISOLATE. Instructions can be found at the end of the newsletter. If you are having trouble getting or using the app please let us know. We will help you sort it out!

If your child is isolating:

Zoom—These meetings offer a chance to catch up with staff and pupils. Zooms will continue for P4-P7 pupils and catch-up session will be offered to anyone who are forced to remain at home due to isolate at home due to isolation or illness.

TEAMS — Work and activities are uploaded regularly here for Homebased Learning if required.

Devices--We can lend you a laptop to support homebased learning if you need it.

Dates for your Diary

- Monday 12th April is an Exceptional Closure.
- All pupils will return to school on Tuesday 13th April.

Nut Free School



We have recently been informed of two children (in P2 & P6) who have a severe food allergy to peanuts and nuts. It is important there is a strict avoidance to these foods in order to prevent a life-threatening allergic reaction. We are asking for your help to provide all our pupils with a safe school environment. To help reduce the chance of this occurring, we are asking that you do not send your child to school with any products containing peanuts or nuts. It is the responsibility of whomever makes the lunch/snacks to ensure that there are no nuts or peanuts listed on the packaging. We will return items that may contain nuts/peanuts unopened. Remember that we are unable to share treats sent into school due to the allergy policy. This unfortunately includes birthday cakes and party bags.

Thank you for your support with these procedures.

Illness

DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SHOWING COVID-19 SYMPTOMS:

- **a new continuous cough**
- **fever**
- **loss of taste/smell.**

If anyone in your household is displaying symptoms, your child should remain at home. This is in keeping with the government guidance for Coronavirus. You should let the school know as soon as you can that there is someone at home that is unwell. We will then work with you, the Education Authority and the PHA to determine what should happen next. Anyone who has had a traceable contact with someone who has tested positive, must remain at home for the 10 day isolation period even if they have tested negative.

Remember we can provide lots of support if your child is off isolating. Work will be provided on Teams, we can arrange zoom sessions and a food parcel can be delivered if your child is entitled to free school meals.

If your child is ill, it is extremely important that you let us know by either completing the absent note on the app or filling in this form: <https://bit.ly/SympTrack20>

Embed://<iframe width="640px" height="480px" src="https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-yeCOETeDkaBkAVAK4mNqEy9oaQEKAPlji0dvjYKpVUQTINSEYwMINOVUVDSEJHWFJFNETJMU5TRC4u&embed=true" frameborder="0" marginwidth="0" marginheight="0" style="border: none; max-width:100%; max-height:100vh" allowfullscreen webkitallowfullscreen mozallowfullscreen msallowfullscreen></iframe>

Dinners/Lunches

Lunchtimes will be timetabled to ensure social distancing. Our dinner choices are completed online and delivered to the classroom. It is essential that book your child's meals for the week by Sunday at 9:00 p.m. The kitchen is working on a skeleton staff and as such late bookings will not be accepted. The form will not open after 9:00 p.m. *This week we have extended the time to 9:00 p.m. on Monday as school is closed for staff training on Monday.*

BOOK DINNERS VIA THE LINK BY 9:00 P.M. ON MONDAY EVENING LATE BOOKINGS FOR DINNERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. <https://bit.ly/PackLunch20>

Embed://<iframe width="640px" height="480px" src="https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-yeCOETeDkaBkAVAK4mNqEy9oaQEKAPlji0dvjYKpVUQVpFQzJNMzFRMFZVNVVHOVZOVkJHQ1pDQS4u&embed=true" frameborder="0" marginwidth="0" marginheight="0" style="border: none; max-width:100%; max-height:100vh" allowfullscreen webkitallowfullscreen mozallowfullscreen msallowfullscreen></iframe>

Staggered Arrival (Drop and Go)

We resume our staggered arrival procedure. Children can arrive any time between 8:45 and 9:05. Here is a remind you of the procedures:

- Follow social distancing footprints. Adults MUST wear masks on entry.
- Hands sanitized on entry;
- Follow the one-way system;
- Temperatures check on entry to the classroom.

Remember anyone who is ill should not be in school. If your child has Covid -19 symptoms the household should self-isolate and a test should be booked.

Staggered Exit (Meet and Leave)

Departure will be staggered to help ensure social distancing. You will note that we have temporarily altered our dismissal times so that all children will go home each day between 2:00 and 2:30 daily. This is to accommodate families as siblings will go home at the same time. We hope that we will be

able to return to later dismissal for the older pupils from Monday 19th April pending changes from the executive.

It is essential for **all stakeholders** to maintain social distancing and that adults wear masks.

Covid-19 Procedures include:

- Gates will be locked until 1:45 as outdoor learning may be taking place.
- Parents/carers must maintain social distancing while waiting to collect their children. Please stand on the designated waiting spots (blue feet), wear a mask and leave the school premises quickly to give room for other families.
- Climbing equipment should not be used by younger siblings waiting for collection.
- Older children will be dismissed from their class early and move to meet their younger siblings. They must maintain social distancing from others but can be in close proximity with their sibling.
- Staff and children will move aside if children are not collected to allow other classes to go out.
- Junior Gate will be closed and locked by the P4 teacher at 2:20.

1:55 to 2:30 Meet and Leave			
JR Playground		JR Playground	
1:50 P1 & Siblings	2:10 P3 Siblings	2:15 P5B & Siblings	2:20 P6 & Siblings
2:00 P2 & Siblings	2:15 P4 & Siblings	2:15 P5F & Siblings	2:25 P7

Curriculum Adjustments

We have been given a new directive that children are now not allowed to sing indoors. However, we know how much our children enjoy and benefit from this activity. We are looking for ways to complete musical activities outside.

PE is another concern as the hall has been repurposed for other activities for significant parts of the day. However, teachers are doing their best to hold PE sessions outdoors. Break and lunch is a little longer so that we can ensure that the children get regular exercise as it is so important to the mental and physical health.

In order to meet these requirements, it is essential that children have the appropriate clothing for the weather. In Northern Ireland this is a particular challenge as we often have more than one season in a day! Please ensure that they have a coat, hat and wellie boots. Boots should stay in school as they are frequently used.

Who is Who!

You may hear your child talking about different adults in their classrooms. As part of our "Restart Plans 2.0" we have put additional staff in place to support the children's mental health and access to the curriculum. In the coming days the school website will be updated with the photos and names of all the staff in each classroom. I would like to welcome our new staff members and thank the Board of Governors for making this possible. Ballyhenry is fortunate to have a dedicated staff who continue to work extremely hard to serve our school community.

Microsoft TEAMS

The School has now moved to TEAMS as our main method of accessing online resources for learning. TEAMS gives a little more flexibility in terms of the exchange of information among pupils and staff. Teachers will be able to upload videos, PowerPoints and resources that will support the children's learning. The children have the ability to respond (via chat) to the resources provided. They will also be able to work collaboratively on projects and enhance their learning. Staff can monitor engagement and help wherever needed. We are working to ensuring all children have access to TEAMS. If your child is isolating, their work will be upload to teams.

Remember, if you need a laptop and/or access to the curriculum please complete the form below. We will be able to lend you a device to support homebased learning and homework over the coming months.

Embed://<iframe width="640px" height="480px" src="https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-yeCOETeDkaBkAVAK4mNqEy9oaQEKApAlji0dvjYKpVURTgyU01ZQkVUU01QTUEXN1lEWIFJWUc1Wi4u&embed=true" frameborder="0" marginwidth="0" marginheight="0" style="border: none; max-width:100%; max-height:100vh" allowfullscreen webkitallowfullscreen mozallowfullscreen msallowfullscreen></iframe>



Returning School Equipment

If we have lent you a laptop please keep hold of it in case your child needs to self-isolate. All other materials such as reading books, whiteboard, pens and notebooks should now be returned to school for class use.

Attendance

DENI expects all pupils to return to school except in very special circumstance:

- pupils who have been advised by their medical teams to remain at home;
- pupils who have been required to self-isolate due to Track and Trace Guidelines;
- pupils who have an illness (including COVID-19).

As usual, attendance will be marked on a daily basis. Special arrangements have been made to record attendance for pupils who are learning from home. This includes compelling schools to collect

evidence regarding the learning that has taken place. If sufficient evidence is not provided or if a pupil refuses to attend school due to COVID-19 fears schools must record these as Unauthorized Absence.



Breakfast Club and B'Happy

At present the guidelines state that social bubbles should not be broken. (i.e. children cannot interact with another group of children before/after school and be in a class bubble during the day). The most recent DENI Guidance and the NI Government “Pathways to Recovery” states the Breakfast Club and Extended Schools should be paused at this stage. In emergency situation we may be able to provide some support. Please ring school or email lnocker496@c2kni.net for help.

Keep in touch!

We know that working from home can be difficult and we want to provide as much support as we can. Please email lknocker496@c2kni.net if you need anything. There will be someone at school every weekday from 8:15 to 4:30 p.m.

Remember that we can only do our best and together we will get through this challenging time!

Stay safe,

Mrs. Knocker