

Newsletter 28—18-04-21



Weekly Services

Breakfast Club—A chance for children to come into school a little early, enjoy breakfast with friends and play and create before school starts. All Covid-Secure Procedures in place. Daily from 8:00 to 8:45 a.m. *Cost: £1.75 per session.*

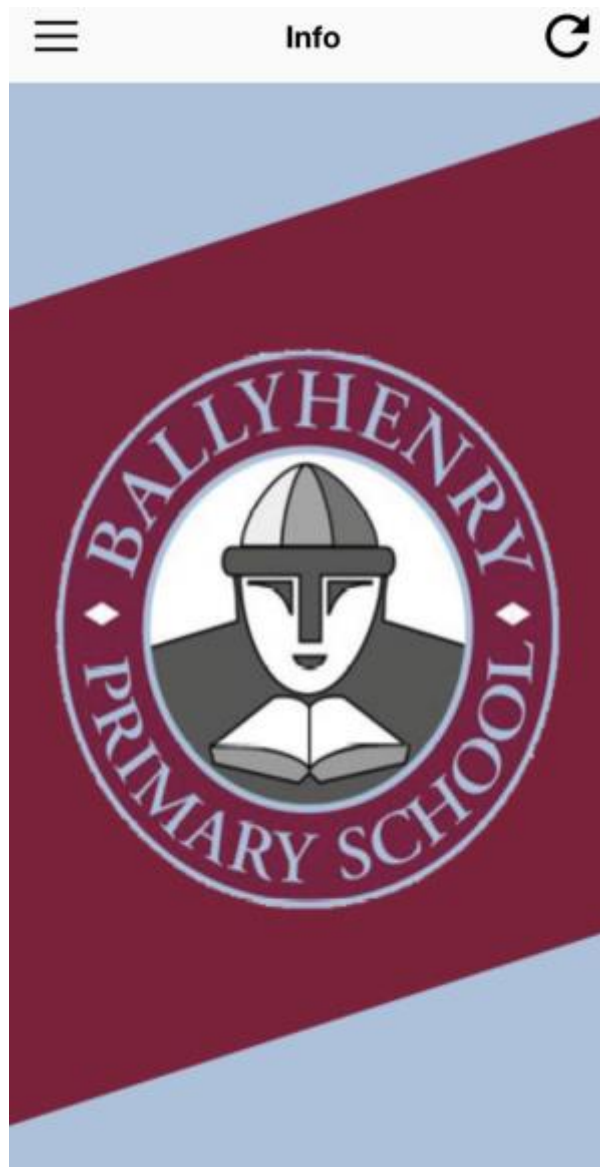
Healthy Break—School will provide a healthy break delivered to the classroom at your child's designated breaktime. Book via the app. *Cost: 30p/day*

School Dinners—School dinners are available daily. To keep everyone safe dinners are delivered and served in classrooms. There are hot meals on Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays and a packed lunch can be provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Choices should be made via the embedded form or this link: <https://bit.ly/PackLunch20> Selections should be made by 9:00 p.m. on Sunday evening for each week. If your child is not entitled to Free School Meals you can by via the app. *Cost: £2.60/day*

B'Happy—Wrap-around care is available from 2:00 to 5:00 every week day with Covid-Secure Procedures in place. Children are provided with a snack and can play in their class bubbles. Bubbles are allowed to mix when the children are playing outside which they are able to do weather permitting. The dedicated B'Happy staff ensure that there afternoons are filled with crafts, games and fun. *Cost: £1.50/session*

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. 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:

Report your child's illness: You can complete an absent form via the app or by submitting this link:
<https://bit.ly/SympTrack20>

Zoom—Virtual meetings offer a chance to catch up with staff and pupils. Zooms 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. Please contact us to arrange a meeting.

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.

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Dates for your Diary

- Monday 3rd May— School closed Bank Holiday
- Friday 28th May— School closed Exceptional Closure
- Monday 31st May— School closed Bank Holiday

Holidays for 2021-2022 will be included in the next newsletter. You can keep track of the school holidays by following our school website: <https://www.myballyhenryps.co.uk>



Nut Free School—We are Allergy Aware

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. It is essential that we are allergy aware.



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>

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Breakfast Club and B'Happy

We are delighted to tell you that we can resume wrap around care. This will be done in adherence with Covid-Secure procedures. We have been able to streamline our procedures and as such have been able to reduce our rates a little. We know that every penny counts and we are doing our best to balance the needs of our community with our expenses. We are currently waiting to hear if we are going to receive additional funding that may mean our rates can be reduced further.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will operate from 8:00-8:45 daily. Children will sit with their class bubble at tables in the assembly hall. They will be served breakfast and be able to play with their class friends. They will be able to watch videos and play games. They will need to stay in their bubble during breakfast club.

Cost: £1.75/session (includes breakfast)

B'Happy

B'Happy is our after school programme which currently operates from 2:00 to 5:00 daily. Children will go to the hall and play in their class bubbles while indoors. They will be given an afternoon snack. The programme involves stories, games, ICT and outdoor activities. When outdoors children are free to play together. Covid-Secure procedures are in place and children will wash/sanitize their hands between activities. We have altered the system to allow parents/carers to book in 30 minute sessions in order to offer the best service for our families.

Cost: £1.50/30 min session

Traditionally B'Happy operates until 6:00 p.m. but there is currently no demand for this service. If you need help please ring school or email lknocker496@c2kni.net for help.



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>

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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 2:15.**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
JR Playground	1:55 P1 & Siblings	1:55 P1	1:55 P1	1:55 P1	1:55 P1 & Siblings
	2:00 P2 & Siblings	2:00 P2	2:00 P2	2:00 P2	2:00 P2 & Siblings
	2:05 P3 & Siblings	2:05 P3	2:05 P3	2:05 P3	2:05 P3 & Siblings
	2:10 P4 & Siblings	2:10 P4	2:10 P4	2:10 P4	2:10 P4 & Siblings
SR Playground	2:10 P5 & Siblings	2:55 P5	2:55 P5	2:55 P5	2:10 P5 & Siblings
	2:15 P6 & Siblings	3:00 P6	3:00 P6	3:00 P6	2:15 P6 & Siblings
	2:20 P7	3:05 P7	3:05 P7	3:05 P7	2:20 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 ensure all children have access to TEAMS. If your child is isolating, their work will be uploaded 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



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.



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