

Newsletter 3 (06-09-20)

Ballyhenry Primary School



It has been an exciting week! So many smiles and it was great to hear the corridors filled with laughter once again!

Remember to download the Ballyhenry Primary School App to receive newsletters and updates. 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!

Illness in School

It has always been the case that if children are ill they should remain at home until they feel well enough to attend. During this Pandemic we all need to be more careful and it is essential that children who are feeling unwell with temperatures, colds, flu, vomiting, diarrhoea, serious earaches, bad sore throats etc should not be in school. If you are uncertain please consult your GP who is best placed to support you in making this decision. Children with very mild cold symptoms (like a runny nose) can attend school but must be able to maintain good tissue hygiene. Keep in mind that we may need to send them home if their symptoms worsen.

Keeping your child at home will ensure that:-

--they are not miserable in school;

--they do not pass their illness to their classmates;

--we protect others who are immune compromised and find it difficult to fight even minor illnesses.

Children MUST NOT ATTEND SCHOOL if they have COVID-19 symptoms:

1. A new and continuous cough
2. High temperature/fever
3. Loss or change in sense of smell or taste

Anyone with these symptoms should contact their GP/PHA to inform them and book a test when it is appropriate to do so.

Research by Queen's University has also found that gastrointestinal problems (ie vomiting and diarrhoea) may also be symptoms of COVID-19 particularly in children. Medical evidence coming from hospital clinicians clearly indicates that Covid-19 symptoms are not exclusive to the three core symptoms and indeed symptoms are VARIABLE. The chief scientific officer has indicated that there may be a need to update of symptoms in the future.

Thank you so much for your support in dealing with illness. I know it is very complicated at the moment. I have been so impressed by the good judgement shown by our parents. Many of you have kept your children off school while they recover, have booked tests and shared with school when your child's tests have been negative. This is so important because social distancing is impossible in class bubbles. Consequently, if one child contracts Covid-19 it is very likely that all of their bubble classmates and staff will be off school for 14 days. That's how important this fight against infections is, in terms of health and learning.

On Friday afternoon the Department of Education Northern Ireland (DENI) updated the Covid-19 Guidance for Schools. This guidance includes the need for schools to track those who are ill, record their



symptoms and whether they have been advised to get a Covid-19 test. We are updating our procedure in school to reflect this new guidance. We have created a temporary form to make things a little easier for all of us. Please complete it if your child has been unwell over the past 72 hours (i.e. since Friday). We have also been advised to track "background rate of absences within a class bubble." If that is the case for your child's class, we will send this link directly to you. Email lknocker496@c2kni.net if you have any questions.

Please complete this link if your child is ill or if you have been asked to do so to help us keep everyone safe: <https://bit.ly/SympTrack20>

Ballyhenry Primary School Kitchen



We are here to help. The canteen is currently offering a brown bag lunch. The lunch will include a filled sandwich, baguette, wrap or muffin (see menu), piece of fruit, dessert and a bottle of water. . This is for both children entitled to free school meals and those who choose to pay for lunch. The kitchen staff have kindly offered to create individual brown bag lunches that will meet each child's needs. You simply need to tell us the fillings you desire and the fruit your child prefers and it will be delivered to the classroom. These cafe style brown bag lunches are tasty and balanced.

Please complete this link to select sandwich fillings <https://bit.ly/PackLunch20>

Free School Meals

Please remember you need to reapply for Free School Meals every year. If you think you are entitled, applications are made online. You should be notified when your application has been processed.

Extra funding in our school is based on our percentage of Free School Meals so please apply even if your child does not want dinners! You will also benefit from Uniform Grants. If your child has a statement for Special Educational Needs they may also be entitled to Free School Meals. We can't get this extra funding without you!

We have been told that the applications have taken longer to process than anticipated. The EA has determined that they will provide Free School Meals to any child who was entitled to Summer Meal Vouchers. This will continue until at least 11th September. If you think you are entitled to Free School Meals, have applied and not heard anything please get in touch!

The meal service has also informed schools that they will provide Food Packs to children who are forced to remain at home due to Covid19. Please contact school if you believe you are entitled to this provision.

Policies and Forms

As you are aware, we are not able to send policies and forms home on paper. These should be completed online.

Please ensure that you complete and submit:

- Policy acknowledge
- Intimate Care Permission
- Photo Permission
- Acceptable use of the internet.
- Permission to walk home (for P5 to P7 pupils only)
- Special diets
- Children medical conditions should also complete the appropriate form:
 - AM1: Long-term medical conditions (i.e. ADHD, ASD, Asthma)
 - AM2: This is a short-term medical condition (i.e. ear infections)
 - AM3: Self-Administration (i.e. to manage their own inhaler in school)



Personal Details

It is essential that we have up-to-date information for you and your child. Normally we would send home paper copies with your current information for you to update. We have been advised to reduce

the amount of paper that is shared between home and school. As such we have create a digital form that can be used to ensure that we have the most up to date information. Simply follow the link to complete the short form <http://bit.ly/DataCh20>



Homework

Now that we have we have resumed school, it is time to get back to our homework routine. This will be a little different in the current climate. Homework will be sent home on a Monday afternoon in a plastic folder provided by the school. The homework folder will contain everything that you need for the week along with an overview of expectations.

P1 pupils will return their homework folder on Thursdays to give staff the opportunity to remove, clean (or quarantine) and replenish the folders for Monday.

P2-P7 pupils will return their homework folders on Fridays. The homework will now be assigned on a rotational basis. One week the children will be given written homework related to numeracy and the next they will focus on Literacy. This is to allow a period of quarantine (72 hours) before marking.

P1 Hours

We are so proud of our new P1s who have settled into school very well!

For the week of 7th September:

- Morning bubble will begin with the staggered start from 8:45 to 9:15 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.
- Afternoon Bubble will begin at 12:30 until 2:30.

Breakfast Club and B'Happy

At present the guidelines state that social bubbles should not be broken. (i.e. children cannot interact with one group of children before/after school and be in a class bubble during the day). We are looking at ways that we can operate our wrap-around care. This will necessitate a change of operations including strict use of social bubbles, social distancing within a shared space, extensive use of the outdoor space and an increase in staffing. These plans are being developed and we hope to be able to start some of these services no later than mid-September. We are holding off for the moment as there is a high level of illness among pupils. This is likely to be related to the common cold but better safe than sorry.

Saturday Work Group



Many thanks to the friends and families who have participated in our weekend work group to get things sorted in the junior playground for outdoor play. We have painted, weeded, dug holes and laughed as we worked our way through two busy mornings. One more Saturday and we should have a permanent outdoor learning structure in place! Next week we hope to paint the benches in the senior playground, weed the raised beds and paint more pallet benches.

Saturday 12th September

10:00 a.m. to 1:00

All welcome!



Final Note

This week it feels like all I have asked you to do is complete online forms! I know that it is challenging but it the best way we have to communicate at the moment. Each form does not take very long to complete and the information is essential in order to keep things safe in school for everyone!



Thank you for your support as we work together to build our new normal school day.

Contact School

We are here to help! Here are some of the ways you can get in touch

Website: www.myballyhenryps.net

Facebook: **Ballyhenry Primary School—Official** (closed group)

Email: lknocker496@c2kni.net

Tel: (028) 90841316

Note: Please contact school if you or a family member has symptoms. It is essential that you let us know if someone in your family has tested positive. If this is out of hours please send an email or a communication slip via the app or fill in our new form <https://bit.ly/SympTrack20> . Include a contact number so that I can call you back to discuss next steps. Try not to worry. We will figure this out together. This information will be kept confidential.

Communication and Payment App

Our Ballyhenry App has helped us in so many ways!

It is essential that all parents/carers download the app! This is easily done from the iTunes store or Google Play. It is a good idea to refresh your app and ensure that you are getting notification for the appropriate class. Simply search for Ballyhenry Primary School. The app is free! You are also free to have other members of your family and child minders download the app as emails, newsletters, text messages and payments can all be done through it.

Step by Step

1. Download the Ballyhenry Primary School App
2. Enter the password: 11111
3. Select the notifications you would like to receive (i.e. which class your child or children are in). So if your children are in P1, P4 and P7 click those classes and you will get updates from their teachers. This might be things like, "Remember your wellie boots." "Class Bubble Closure" etc. Be sure to enable notifications so that you get these updates directly to your phone.
4. Start using the app

The app is free!

Payment Booking

Use this section to book and pay for the following:

- Breakfast Club (When available)
- Healthy Break
- Dinners (Paying only)
- B'Happy (When available)

How to make a booking:

1. Select the Booking you wish to make (there is a scroll down menu at the top).

2. Select the relevant days (you can do this weekly, monthly termly)
3. Go to cart
4. Proceed to booking
5. Enter your child's name, class and payment method (PayPal)
6. Press continue
7. This will take you to PayPal where you can check out using your account or as a guest using your debit or credit card.
8. PayPal will acknowledge your payment and you are done!

Please note: You can only do one child and one item (i.e. Healthy Break or dinners) at a time. The ePrinting Company is working on this and there should be a solution soon. In the meantime we would suggest booking at least weekly to save you time. It should not be too long until it is sorted.