



104 Moneynick Road, Randalstown, BT41 3HS

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3 August 2020

## Dear Parents/Guardians

As the new school year draws near, I hope that you, your families and the wider Moneynick School community are keeping safe and well.

There has been a lot of engagement with the Department of Education (DE) on the wider re-opening of schools. The health, safety and well-being of all our pupils, school staff and school community must take precedence going forward. The staff of Moneynick have been planning and preparing for our new academic year and I am pleased to inform you of the first steps that we are taking to ensure that **all pupils** can return safely.

## Communication

To reduce the risk of spreading the virus, where possible written communication will be made via our school website [www.moneynickps.com](http://www.moneynickps.com). To ensure effective communication a copy of the data collection form has been uploaded for completion. A form should be completed for each child attending Moneynick Primary School. When completing the form please ensure you include at least three contact details and that medical information and email addresses are updated. Return the form via our school email address [info@moneynickps.randalstown.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@moneynickps.randalstown.ni.sch.uk) on or before Monday 10 August. **It is extremely important to keep the school updated with accurate mobile phone numbers, email addresses and medical data when changes arise.**

## School Year 2020/21

Pupils will be together in three '**Protective Bubbles**'- Primary 1-3, Primary 4-5 and Primary 6-7. Each '**Protective Bubble**' will enter and exit school via separate doors, eat together and play together during staggered breaks. When pupils enter school, they will go to their classrooms and wash their hands. There will be no playtime in the yard before school.

Pupils will place their coats on the back of their chair to limit interaction in cloakrooms. Pupils will not bring a school bag. A clear zip folder or tuff bag that is easily wiped would be ideal to carry when required. An example is available to view in our Covid-19 tab on our website. Lunch and break should be carried in a clearly marked wipeable lunch box. Please provide clearly marked water bottles as school drinking facilities (water container) will not be available. Please ensure thorough cleaning each day when lunch boxes and water bottles return home.

Pupils will be provided with a box of **individual resources** which they will use daily in school. These resources include a stationery pack, individual books and practical materials e.g. laminated clock faces, money fans. Individual resources will ensure that sharing is limited, controlled and adheres to hygiene procedures set out in government guidelines.

## Health and Hygiene

The school will be furnished with hand sanitising stations, and clear age appropriate signage in classrooms, corridors and toilets. A new outside hand washing basin has been installed to provide an extra facility. Could all pupils please provide **tissues** and a **travel size hand sanitiser** for their table. In school it will be our priority to wash hands however on occasions, hand sanitising will also be essential. Pupils will also learn the procedure '**Catch It, Bin It, Kill It**'. A box of tissues at their desk will ensure the resources are readily available to complete the procedure effectively. Please visit our **Covid -19 tab at [www.moneynickps.com](http://www.moneynickps.com)**. Discuss the posters with your child. View the handwashing songs and the handwashing technique.

## School Return Dates

**Primary 7 pupils will return on Monday 24 August 2020.** To allow all classes the opportunity to learn new procedures and experience the 'new norm' in school, we are holding familiarisation days. We appreciate that during the first week some siblings may be split. Thank you in advance for your support.

Date	Day	Classes
24 August	Monday	Primary 2 – Mrs Mallon Primary 7 – Mrs Lavery
25 August	Tuesday	Primary 3 – Mrs Mallon Primary 4 – Mrs McConway Primary 7 – Mrs Lavery
26 August	Wednesday	Primary 2 – Mrs Mallon Primary 3 – Mrs Mallon Primary 5 – Mrs McConway Primary 7 – Mrs Lavery
27 August	Thursday	Primary 1 – Mrs Mallon Primary 4 – Mrs Johnston Primary 6 – Mrs Lavery Primary 7 – Mrs McConway
28 August	Friday	Primary 1 – Mrs Mallon Primary 5 – Mrs Johnston Primary 6 – Mrs Lavery Primary 7 – Mrs McConway

**School will be closed on Monday 31 August. All pupils will return to school on Tuesday 1 September.** They will enter and exit the school and follow the safety procedures taught during the familiarisation days. Pupils will need time to adjust to all these changes and we will be mindful of their anxieties and worries as they come to school each day. For many pupils this will be a big change.

## Primary 1

Primary 1 pupils will finish their school day at **12 noon** from Thursday 27 August until Friday 4 September (inclusive). From Monday 7 September Primary 1 pupils will finish their school day at 2pm.

### **Afterschool and Breakfast Club**

To ensure a gradual and safe return, Breakfast Club has been temporarily suspended and for now our Afterschool Clubs are limited. From Monday 7 September pupils in Primary 1 and Primary 2 can stay for afterschool activities until 3pm. Please ensure that Primary 1 and Primary 2 children have suitable coats as afterschool activities will focus on outdoor play. Breakfast and Afterschool Clubs will be reviewed and monitored on a weekly basis and are therefore subject to change. Further information regarding clubs will follow when we return to school.

### **Transport and School Meals**

The latest communication from the Department of Education confirms that catering and transport services will be operational in some capacity from Monday 24 - Friday 28 August however the specific terms and conditions have not been finalised. Updated information regarding school meals and transport will be uploaded onto the Covid- 19 tab of our school website as soon as it is available.

As with many aspects of our life at present, planning and preparation has still an aspect of uncertainty and may be subject to change depending on government guidelines.

I wish to extend a sincere and warm thank you to all our parents for your patience, understanding and support during the past months. I look forward to hearing the laughter and excitement of all our children as they return to school and pray daily for our safe return. I hope that you all continue to have a happy and relaxing summer break.

Take care and God bless.

*Fiona McConway*

Fiona McConway (Principal)