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Dear Parent,

30-06-2020

Having carefully studied the Department of Education's release of the 'N.I. Re-opening Schools Guidance – New School Day' which clarified the requirements for primary schools, we were delighted to have provided you with the positive news on Friday that all children would be able to return to school in August/September 2020. The safety of our children and staff is paramount in these arrangements.

I want to provide you with an *outline* of some aspects of how school is likely to look when we return. Please note this is **subject to change** as further guidance continues to be issued.

- Only P7 pupils will return to school on 24th-28th August (5 days inclusive 8.40am-2.40pm).
- P2 – P6 pupils will come to school on Thursday 27th and Friday 28th August. P2 and P3 children will finish at 1.30pm and P4-P7 children will at 2.30-2.40pm. *
- Dinners will be available to **all pupils** on these days. A menu will be posted on our website week beginning 17th August.
- P1 parents will have been given an interview appointment with Mrs Hunter on Thursday 27th or Friday 28th August 2020 before pupils begin a phased, small group induction from Tuesday 1st September.
- Monday 31st August (Bank Holiday – School closed).
- P2-P7 will return full-time on Tuesday 1st September 2020.

Health and Safety

We are installing additional hand sanitising points. Each class of pupils will occupy a classroom '**bubble**' to limit contact with other children and adults. We are required to provide a '**diminished interaction**' within the school day, only leaving the classroom to go to the toilet or playground.

The following areas will be planned for and further structures communicated to parents' **week beginning 10th August:**

- Staggered drop off and pickup times of pupils *
- Timetabled playgrounds and lunch/dinner arrangements
- Children should bring a bottle of water and our 'Healthy Break' will be as normal.
- On their first day returning to school, children need to bring their own personal stationery and sanitisation (see list provided by each teacher). This will remain in school.

- Pupils should only carry a lunchbox and small schoolbag or sealed plastic folder/wallet.
- Homework *may involve* a virtual element to help reduce the need to handle books.
- No Early Morning or Afterschool Clubs (this will be kept under review as more guidance is received)
- Parents should remain in cars or stand outside our school grounds when dropping off/picking up. The school gates must be clear of parents/visitors. *Minimum of 1 metre social distancing at all times*
- Pupils must be able to manage jumpers, shoes, coats and fasten zips and buttons.
- Children **MUST** be able to sit in their designated seat or learning area.
- Ensure hands are washed with soap and water before arriving at school and pupils will be required to wash them at regular intervals throughout the day and before they leave school.
- Long hair **MUST** be tied back and **NO** jewellery is permitted.
- Wear normal school uniform washed daily (unless asked by teacher to wear PE uniform. No changing in school)

Uniform:

All pupils should wear:

- School jumper
- White polo T-Shirt
- Grey trousers (boys)/grey skirt (girls)
- Grey or black socks (boys)/long white socks or grey tights (girls)
- Black shoes (only laces if your child can tie them)
- Coat with hood
- Blue polo T-Shirts and hoodies are available for P.E. (contact school office)

We will ensure our procedures are as safe and detailed as possible whilst also providing a high level of pastoral care. We realise how difficult it will be to completely remove adult or peer contact with pupils and maintain 1m social distancing. This will be regularly reinforced indoors and outdoors.

***If children are unable to remain in their class bubble or follow these guidelines this will result in remote learning having to be considered or implemented at home. We cannot put the health and safety of others at risk during this time.**

In closing, these arrangements are not what we would aspire to as a school but are necessary to comply with the Department of Education's guidance provided. We will continue to update you accordingly as we receive information. On behalf of the Board of Governors and staff of Hamiltonsbawn Primary School may I wish you a safe, enjoyable Summer and thank you sincerely for your support and patience during this unprecedented period.

Yours faithfully

Mr. D. Hutchinson
(Principal)

