Tuesday 16th February 2021

Dear Families,

I hope you enjoyed the February break and are managing ok in these turbulent times.

Today the First Minister confirmed that pupils in Nursery to Primary 3 will return on this coming **Monday 22nd February.** The return date for pupils in P4-7 will hopefully be confirmed in a fortnight's time. Pupils in Primary 4 – Primary 7 will continue with remote learning until their date of return is confirmed.

The hub provision for invited children and children whose parents are both key workers will continue for P4 – P7 pupils.

As stated by the FM, we are making positive progress against the virus but this progress is still fragile. In order for schools to open their buildings to children once more we must continue to make sacrifices as a wider society to ensure this can continue and all children can be welcomed back. Please remember to wear a mask when dropping off your children and I would politely ask that all adults distance physically from one another and make their way from the school as quickly as possible after drop off and pick up times.

We will continue with staggered starts, break, lunches and finish times. All adults will wear masks in communal areas and when working closely with children. Each class bubble will remain separate from other class bubbles at all times. All children will wash and sanitise their hands regularly throughout the day. All physical education will take place outside once more so please remember a change of clothes in bags if children require a change.

All school staff are being offered a twice weekly home test even if they are not symptomatic. This is using a lateral flow device which gives a result within 30 minutes. This will provide our school community with an additional measure of protection against the virus. This test does not replace the testing that must be taken if someone becomes symptomatic but is in addition to this.

There are some details below on the return to school for children in P1 – P3.

Staggered start and finish times

We will be continuing with our staggered start and finish times and these are detailed below for your information:

P1 and P2			
Surnames	**Day**	**Start Time**	**Finish Time**
A-L	**Monday -Thursday**	**8.45am**	**2.40pm**
A-L	**Friday**	**8.45am**	**12pm**
M-Z	**Monday -Thursday**	**9.00am**	**2.50pm**
M-Z	**Friday**	**9.00am**	**12.15pm**

P3 and P3/4 (Just P3 pupils from P4)			
Surnames	**Day**	**Start Time**	**Finish Time**
A-L	**Monday -Thursday**	**8.45am**	**3pm**
A-L	**Friday**	**8.45am**	**12.20pm**
M-Z	**Monday -Thursday**	**9am**	**3.15pm**
M-Z	**Friday**	**9am**	**12.35pm**

Breakfast club

We will be running a very limited breakfast club provision for the **children of key worker families in P1 – 3 only**. In order to qualify for your child to attend breakfast club before school then both parents must be key workers with no other childcare options available before school in the mornings. This decision on breakfast club provision is council wide and is intended to keep numbers very low to further support infection control.

Curriculum

As before we will be reverting to our 'recovery curriculum' that will include literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. We will plan lots of activities that allow the children to reconnect with each other and with school staff.

Primary 3/4 composite arrangements

Like many schools across the city, the P3/4 composite class throws up an unusual scenario with half the class returning to school and half the class learning at home. I am pleased to say that Mrs Eleanor Campbell will continue to work with the P3 group from the P3/4 class in school Monday to Wednesday and Mrs Susan Tukalo will continue to work with this group on a Thursday and Friday. The P4 group in the P3/4 composite will be supported remotely by Miss Adela Mansur on a Monday to Wednesday and again by Mrs Eleanor Campbell on a Thursday and Friday. I hope this will provide good continuity for the children in this class.

Final thoughts

The announcement today was bittersweet for me, I cannot wait to see the children's faces in Nursery to Primary 3 and know that many families will feel a sense of relief that their children are to be able to return to an in-school education and be with their friends. However, I also look forward to seeing our older children in P4 – P7 when the roadmap out of lockdown allows. I know these children will continue to learn remotely with your wonderful support.

My senior leadership team and I will be calling families who have a child returning to school and a child remaining at home over the coming days as we appreciate that this can be a tricky situation at home!

All my best,

Chris

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