






AUGUST/SEPTEMBER RE-OPENING

Dear Boys and Girls, Mums and Dads,






First of all, we hope that this newsletter finds each and every one of you in good health and ready to begin the new school year. Normally the big focus for the return to school after the summer break is the purchase of uniform, sparkling new school shoes, gleaming new school bags and packed pencil cases but this year we know it is different.

We recognise that the substantial time away from school has been difficult for so many in so many different ways and that there may be increased anxiety about coming back into the routines of school life. We have previously shared lots of information about what school will possibly look like and how it will function within the new DE guidelines. We also hope that the children enjoyed reading and learning about their new teacher. The staff have also been working hard on a video presentation which will show you many of the new routines. This can be viewed today on our website.

To do this, we were especially delighted to welcome back our new Primary 7 pupils this week who have been helping us run through many of the new routines – a different type of Buddy Duty this year! It was great to see nearly 60 boys and girls back on campus picking up their face-to-face friendships again and getting on with a wide range of activities whilst having a good time and a lot of laughter.

-  We also are welcoming, for the first time, our new Primary 1 pupils who have their Induction Mornings on Thursday and Friday of this week.
-  On Tuesday 1st September, we open the gates to all of the children from Primary 2 through to Primary 7 with smaller groups of Primary 1 children starting their first day.
-  Nursery Induction days will also begin from Tuesday 1st September.

As you are all very aware, this complex, complicated and ever-changing pandemic is affecting and impacting on how all of us live and work. We will continue to review all plans, routines and systems but do so in accordance with the current guidelines and against what our unique school setting is able to provide.

-  As stated before, only Free School Meals will be available during the week beginning 1st September. We are planning that paid dinners will be available from 7th September for P2-P7.
-  School Meals will not be issuing a menu for the foreseeable future. It is anticipated that on alternate days there will be Lunchbox Express (e.g. sandwich meal) one day and then a hot meal (e.g. hotdog or burger/chips meal) on the next day.
-  The cost of a school dinner is £2.60. We ask that the correct amount is sent in to the class teacher. The return of change will take 3+ days.
-  We hope, in the not too distant future, to move to having all payments to school made online via an app.
-  At this stage we are content that pupils may bring in their own reusable water bottle and wipe-able plastic lunchbox. The water bottle will only be placed on their own desk whilst the lunchbox must be placed in the compartment under the child's own desk and both items must be taken home at the end of the day. No schoolbags should be brought to school.

- ✚ The staggered start and finish times remain in place. They are there to reduce the volume of adults on site and keep people safe. We therefore continue to ask parents/carers to respect physical distancing at all times. Signage and ‘follow the yellow painted feet’ will assist in the navigation of this. The green footprints are for Nursery children.
- ✚ As per normal arrangements, P1-3 children are expected to be collected by an adult from the play park.
- ✚ We would encourage those children from P4-7, where possible, and if they feel safe to do so, to walk independently out through the school gates to meet an adult. P4-7 classes will be dismissed from the play park area.
- ✚ Children with specific medication needs will be contacted by school in relation to updating information but children who already are using inhalers in school need to have these in school from their first day.
- ✚ Please continue to follow our website as we post various pieces of information. We continue to develop how we communicate with parents and would appreciate being informed of any changes to mobile and email contacts via email to info@killowenps.lisburn.ni.sch.uk
- ✚ On the following pages, you will find more details on the Test, Trace and Protect service.

Finally, to you as parents, we want to reiterate that everything we do is in order to keep your children safe and happy and we will continue to place them at the centre of it. We also recognise that there is anxiety and hesitancy for **ALL**, as the situation here in Northern Ireland changes on a daily basis meaning that as guidance changes, please continue to factor into your plans the possibility of amendments to the school day and week, as set out in the initial scenario letter shared with you in June.



The Department of Health has implemented a contact tracing programme called Test, Track and Protect, designed to control the spread of COVID-19. All staff and pupils are expected to follow the requirements of this programme: to self-isolate if they are identified as close contacts of cases and to obtain a test for COVID-19 if they develop symptoms.

Test, Trace, Protect

Anyone who exhibits any symptoms associated with COVID-19 should not attend school.

All symptomatic pupils and staff are expected to follow the advice and obtain a test for COVID-19.

To be used in conjunction with New School Day Guidance –Section 8

Where an individual has had a negative result and everyone with symptoms who was tested in their household receive a negative result, the pupil or member of staff can return to school providing they are well enough and have not had a fever for 48 hours.

Anyone who tests positive will be contacted by the Contact Tracing Service in the Public Health Agency, and will need to share information about their recent interactions. This could include household members, people with whom you have been in direct contact, or been within 2 metres for more than 15 minutes.

All household members should follow PHA isolation guidance which currently requires everyone in the household to stay at home.

- If you have symptoms of coronavirus or a positive test, you will need to **stay at home for at least 10 days**.

- If you live with someone who has symptoms or a positive test, you will need to **stay at home for 14 days from the day the first person in the home started having symptoms**.

- However, if you develop symptoms during this 14-day period, you will need to self-check in accordance with Test and Trace guidance and **stay at home for 10 days from the day your symptoms started** (regardless of what day you are on in the original 14-day period).

- 10 days after your symptoms started, if you do not have a high temperature, you do not need to continue to self-isolate. If you still have a high temperature, keep self-isolating until your temperature returns to normal. You do not need to self-isolate if you just have a cough after 10 days, as a cough can last for several weeks after the infection has gone.

- If you have symptoms and live with someone who is 70 or over, has a long-term condition, is pregnant or has a weakened immune system, try to find somewhere else they can stay for the 14-day isolation period.

- It is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

PHA guidance under the Test and Trace and Protect programme will be **applied for all staff or pupils in contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19**. Test and Trace staff will contact anyone with a positive test and trace their contacts over the previous 48 hours seeking information on where that individual has been in contact with someone for 15 minutes or more and less than 2 m social distance.

Isolation guidance will then be provided that is context specific and may result in friendship groups, regular contacts and potentially an entire class or 'bubble' being instructed to self-isolate at home.

Should a COVID-19 confirmed case occur, **the EA cleaning service should be notified. Enhanced cleaning should be carried out within any classroom in which an individual who has developed COVID-19 has been to minimise risk of the spread of the virus**. This should be clearly communicated to staff, parents and pupils to provide assurance that the environment is safe.

Pupils and staff can return to school when they have completed the necessary period of isolation as advised by the Test, Trace and Protect service. This will help contain any potential transmission to those staff/pupils and will also assist in protecting the wider community.

TEST TRACE PROTECT A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

Test ✓ Trace ✓ Protect ✓

NHS Health and Social Care

1



SPOT THE SYMPTOMS

If you have a new persistent cough, fever or loss of or change in sense of taste and smell, you and everyone in your house should immediately self-isolate.

2



REQUEST A TEST NOW

Visit [nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus) to book a test online. Call 119 if you cannot book a test online.

3



ISOLATE

Isolate for 7 days after symptoms appear, longer if fever continues (until at least 48 hours after your temperature returns to normal). Other people you live with should isolate for 14 days.

4



GET TESTED

Testing is carried out at drive through testing centres and you must arrive by car (not on foot, via public transport, by taxi or by any other means). Home tests are also available.

5



GET RESULTS

You should receive results within 72 hours. If you test negative for coronavirus you and your household can stop isolating.

6



PROVIDE DETAILS

If you test positive for coronavirus Public Health Agency (PHA) contact tracers will call you from the number 028 9536 8888. They will ask you who you have had contact with recently.

7



PHA INFORMS CONTACTS

If you have coronavirus, the PHA will contact the people you have had close contact with. Your name will not be shared unless you give permission. All data will be held securely.

8



CLOSE CONTACTS ASKED TO ISOLATE

Close contacts will be asked to isolate for 14 days from the last time they had contact with you.

9



HOUSEHOLD OF CLOSE CONTACTS

If the close contact has no symptoms, others in the household don't need to isolate. If the close contact develops symptoms, they should follow this guide starting at step 1.

When you can leave home, stay safe and continue to follow public health advice.

- Wash your hands well and often and avoid touching your face.
- Keep your distance from others when outside the home.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue and dispose of the tissue in a bin.

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

WE ALL MUST DO IT TO GET THROUGH IT
STAY SAFE. SAVE LIVES.

