



Dear Boys and Girls, Mums and Dads,

We would like to thank all the families for the very successful start to the New School Year, New School Day and New School Arrangements. As with any plan in theory, it is only when it is tested in practice, do we fully see the extent of its capabilities. Parental co-operation was so willing, patient and the level of understanding of what we are trying to do here across the school, was very evident and much appreciated by staff.

The boys and girls have also been exemplary in their positive, upbeat attitudes in coming back to school and engaging so purposely with their new teachers. We are proud of them and look forward to moving forward with whatever challenges lie ahead.

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. Safety and reducing risk remains a priority.

- ✚ As stated before, both Free School Meals and paid dinners will be available from 7<sup>th</sup> September for P2-P7. The menu has now been shared with us by School Meals Kitchen:-

**Monday...Chicken Goujons**

**Tuesday...Tuna Sandwich**

**Wednesday...Burger or Hotdog**

**Thursday...Chicken Sandwich**

**Friday...Pizza**

- ✚ Notes should be emailed to the teacher or phoned into school. Please do not expect a return call from the teacher during the school day as they will be teaching.
- ✚ Sleepy Hollow will begin their wrap-around care provision from 1.45pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Parents should contact Sleepy Hollow directly.
- ✚ We understand that in the daily rush to get the children to school that snacks, lunches and water bottles are sometimes forgotten. We need to reduce interaction and the delivery of late items would mean a staff member crossing into many class bubbles to facilitate this and therefore increasing risk. Moving forward through this tricky issue, especially around lunches, we would like parents to try this protocol:
  - Parent should phone office stating your child's name and class.
  - Please follow the one-way system and deliver the forgotten lunch, in a clearly named lunch bag to the outdoor classroom tables by 10am.
  - Parent exits school using the one-way system.

### REMINDERS

- ✚ 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.
- ✚ 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 at this stage.

- The staggered start times have worked really well so far in reducing the volume of footfall. Whilst continuing to ask parents/carers to respect physical distancing at all times we have decided to condense the arrival times and have made slight amendments to, to begin from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September, are as follows:-

Families arrive at school together at the arrival time of the eldest child	ARRIVAL TIME
P7 & all year group siblings	8.45am
P6 & all year group siblings	8.50am
P5 & all year group siblings	8.55am
P4 & all year group siblings	9am
P3 & all year group siblings	9.05am
P2 & all year group siblings	9.10am
Remaining P1 children	9.15am
Nursery	9am

- There will be no change to the departure times in the afternoons. Siblings will accompany and leave with each other from P2-7. \* P1 children finish at 12noon during September but siblings do not leave with them.

Families leave school together at the departure time of the youngest child	DEPARTURE TIME
P2 & all year group siblings	1.55pm
P3 & all year group siblings	2.05pm
P4 & all year group siblings	2.15pm
P5 & all year group siblings	2.25pm
P6 & all year group siblings	2.35pm
Remaining P7 children	2.45pm

- Following our own observations and by listening to many parents, P4-7 children will be walked down to the school gates with their teacher who will then dismiss them. The teacher will remain at the gate until all children have been collected or walked home independently as per their parent's instructions. Please be on time for collection especially in poor weather conditions.
- Parents will be very aware of the significant change in the AQE and GL test processes announced yesterday, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. We would like to assure parents that school found out this information at the same time as the rest of the country. We will be addressing changes in our Term 1 P7 planning and curriculum to take account of the date changes but continue to support the curriculum needs of **all** of the children in the year group.
- 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](mailto:info@killowenps.lisburn.ni.sch.uk)
- As we near the end of week 1, of the new school year, we ask you to continue to be positive, supportive and encouraging in working with the ongoing arrangements. We are all on a steep learning curve around COVID-19 and the impact it is having on our school, our city and our country.



Finally, we were delighted to receive our School of Sanctuary certificate and plaque. Killowen Primary School was one of only 12 schools who were awarded this prestigious honour and is in recognition for the sterling work carried out over the last year in providing a safe, nurturing, inclusive and diverse environment for children to learn and staff to work in. Well done to everyone who played their part.

