



BALLYKEEL BULLETIN – 4th SEPTEMBER 2020

EMAIL: info@ballykeelps.ballymena.ni.sch.uk **WEBSITE:-** www.ballykeelps.org.uk

CHILD PROTECTION - Designated Teacher: *Mr J Fisher*

Deputy Designated Teachers: *Mrs J Thompson and Mrs S Müller*

Hello Everyone,

It has been such a delight to welcome back all of the children to school, we have been amazed at just how much they have missed their friends and the staff, and how quickly they have settled back into life in school despite the changes for them.

Thank you so much for your patience and co-operation during the past week as we all get used to doing things a little differently. The majority of parents/carers read the communication from school and knew exactly what the arrangements were for drop off and pick up – that was just great and we really appreciated it! We also managed to successfully help those who were a little unsure – I think we all have the hang of it now! Thank you for sending in the items requested for the start of term, these are a great help to the staff.

In order to make everything run even more smoothly, we need every parent/carer to do the following:

- ✓ Make sure your child comes in their allocated gate every morning
- ✓ Make sure your child is not late as the gates are locked at 9:15
- ✓ Make sure your child has what they need for the day ahead before arriving at school, eg break and packed lunch
- ✓ At pick up time P.1 to P.3 parents to enter through the allocated gate for their child's class
- ✓ Pass on the drop off and collection arrangements if someone different is bringing or collecting your child eg child minder, grandparent

We would ask that P.1, P.2 and P.3 children are collected at home time by ONE adult only.

P.3 parents, we ask that you wait outside the gates until all P.2 parents/carers and children are off the premises.

CHILDREN WHO ARE ENTERING SCHOOL THROUGH THE CANTEEN GATES (P.5-P.7) AND LEAVING (P.6)

Could I please appeal to parents not to park along this road at Shetland Gardens, or stop outside the gates to drop off or collect. Please try to park elsewhere and either walk your child to the gates, or let them walk down by themselves. We need to always be very mindful of the local residents and minimise congestion when possible.

HAVE YOU EMAILED YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER YET?

We sent your child's teacher's email address by text last week. If you haven't done so, please email the teacher so that he/she has your email address and let him/her know your mobile number.

COMMUNICATION

Please let us know if you have changed your mobile number. I trust that everyone has by now downloaded the NI Schools App and has subscribed to the school's website to make sure that you don't miss information from the school.



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SCHOOL BAGS

From Monday 7th September children from P.2 to P.7 can bring in their school bags. Any lunchboxes/break are to be inside this bag. Your child's stationery and pencil case will still remain in school each day.

HOMEWORK

Homework will start next week for the majority of classes. Further details on this will be on the website and/or by communication directly from the class teacher. P.2 to P.7 parents/carers please ensure that your child has a homework wallet in their bag. If you need a new one these will be available to buy through ParentPay next week.

PARENTPAY

Thank you to the majority of you who have registered with ParentPay. At present, despite our best efforts with individual texts and phone calls, 12% of pupils (50) are not yet registered. We really need ***everyone*** to do this as the school is no longer accepting cash. **IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO, PLEASE REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

We would ask that medical appointments are made outside of school hours. Moving forward, as per DE guidance, a child who leaves school for an appointment will be coded 'M' which results in a half day absence. Please do not send in paper copies of proof of appointment but email them to the school's info account. Please email your child's teacher and the school's info account if your child needs out for an appointment. Let us know the time of collection, what the appointment is for and if your child will be returning.

MILK

The cost of milk from Monday 14th September to Friday 23rd October is £6.38. This must be paid through ParentPay on or before TUESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER as late orders to Dale Farm cannot be made.

SCHOOL DINNERS

We hope to be able to serve a hot dinner to each year group, on at least one day per week, from Monday the 14th September. We will give you information on that as soon as possible.

Working together in partnership has been key in the success of all the new procedures in place. I hope to be able to meet, in some form, with the parental consultation group at some point in the future.

Thank you,