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CHILD PROTECTION - Designated Teacher: Mr J Fisher

Deputy Designated Teachers: Mrs J Thompson and Mrs S Müller

## WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

It has been fantastic to welcome our pupils back to school and lovely to see all their happy faces again. A huge well done to everyone for coming back into school so calmly, sensibly and with such joy! It is great to see the children back with their friends and coping with all the new routines. Thank you also to parents for keeping in touch and following all of the guidelines set out by the school.

Over the next few months we will be settling into the 'new normal' and focusing on literacy and numeracy. However, one of our main priorities is to make sure the children feel safe and happy, and to help us do this we will be focusing on the emotional health and wellbeing of our pupils.

In each classroom there will be a focus on PDMU activities and mindfulness, some classes will have workshops on resilience, keeping healthy and positive mental health. We have introduced calming music and are going to be diffusing essential oils in all the classrooms. Children will also be outside for physical activities and outdoor learning as often as possible.

Ballykeel Primary School is also working towards becoming a 'Take 5 steps to wellbeing' school and will be looking at improving wellbeing in its fullest sense, both physically and emotionally, where everyone can feel good and function well. The headings of the 5 steps are; **Connect, Keep learning, Be active, Take notice** and **Give** and is something that you may hear your child mention as the year goes on or you may notice in the wider community. We look forward to a new year of working together.

Mrs J Thompson, Head of Pastoral Care

**DATES FOR THE DIARY:** School will close early from Mon 19<sup>th</sup> to Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> October to allow teachers to conduct parent/teacher interviews over the phone. We will let you know the exact times, but it will likely be from 12:30 onwards.

Mon 26<sup>th</sup> to Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Oct – School closed for the mid-term break.

### ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRIMARY 1 CHILDREN 14<sup>TH</sup>-25<sup>TH</sup>

**SEPT:** These children will finish at 12:15 for the next 2 weeks. For these 2 weeks those children entitled to free school meals will have a hot meal *every day*, all other children must bring a packed lunch. Very well done to all of the P.1 children who are coming down the path on their own each day. They are doing brilliantly! 😊

**DROP OFF AND PICK UP:** Thank you for your continued co-operation in the mornings and the afternoons. The system continues to work very well. A reminder for P.1 to P.3 parents that one adult only should pick up. All adults please do not stand in groups and always maintain a 2m distance from others.



**PARENTPAY:** At present we have 93% of children now signed up with ParentPay. We really need the parents of the remaining 27 pupils to do this ASAP please. Each child in the family must be registered. Phone Mrs Millar and she will get you sorted. Thank you!



**P2 TO P7 SCHOOL DINNERS 14<sup>TH</sup> – 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPT:** For these 2 weeks, only those children entitled to free school meals will have a hot lunch. **THIS WILL NOT BE EVERYDAY.** Please see the rota which will be going on to the website later today along with the updated menu for these 2 weeks. We anticipate that paid meals will be able to be ordered through ParentPay from 28<sup>th</sup> September, more details will follow. At lunch times 2 classes will be in the hall at the one time, entering and leaving through different doors. We will send you a picture of our 'new look' canteen - Geraldine and her staff have been very busy!



