



# Ballykeel Primary School & Nursery Unit

22 Crebilly Road, Ballymena BT42 4DN  
Tel: 028 2565 3902 Fax: 028 2564 5887  
Email: [info@ballykeelps.ballymena.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@ballykeelps.ballymena.ni.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.ballykeelps.org.uk](http://www.ballykeelps.org.uk)



Dear Parent,

I hope that you have had a lovely summer and that you and your loved ones kept safe and well. With the return of children next week and DE guidance only received late yesterday, we have had a short time to absorb the document and translate it into practice in school. Please bear with us if any of the following arrangements change in due course.

Although the use of formal bubbles is no longer required, the need for schools to continue to support effective contact tracing means that schools are being asked to maintain a cautious and measured approach that still seeks to maximise the time where pupils are within a consistent group of pupils. Schools have been told to continue to endeavour to implement as much social distancing as is practical where physical capacity and curriculum delivery permit. Public health guidance with respect to social distancing of 2 metres remains in place between adults and as far as possible between adults and pupils. Social distancing guidance applies across all areas of the school estate, both indoors and outdoors. Schools have also been told they should consider how they can avoid parents congregating at school gates at the start and the end of the school day. We ask that all adults wear masks when in the school grounds and in the building.

## Drop Off and Collection

Children must arrive at school from **8:45 to 9:00 at the latest** and they will go straight to class. Parents are asked not to congregate unnecessarily, to collect children on time and to leave the premises promptly.

Class	Entrance Point From 8:45 to 9:00	Collection Time and Exit Point
P.1	Main Gates	1:50 Main Gates
P.2	Main Gates	2:00 Main Gates
P.3	Youth Centre Gate	2:00 Youth Centre Gate
P.4	Youth Centre Gate	3:00 Main Gates
P.5	Canteen entrance at side of school	3:00 Main Gates
P.6	Canteen entrance at side of school	Canteen entrance at side of school
P.7	Canteen entrance at side of school	3:00 Youth Centre Gate

**ON THE FIRST DAY WE ASK THAT EACH CHILD BRING IN A PRITT STICK, A BOX OF TISSUES, GOOD QUALITY ONE PUMP ACTION HAND SOAP AND A HAND SANITISER.**

**Please note that anyone displaying any of the key COVID-19 symptoms must not attend school. They should stay at home and book a test through the PHA website, keeping the school updated at all times.**

## Breakfast Club

We hope to resume the breakfast club sometime in September which will be payable through ParentPay only. More details regarding this will follow.

## Morning Break and School Dinners

There will be no morning break in the canteen, each child should have a healthy snack with them each day. School dinners will resume for all children each day in the canteen. We will be operating 3 sittings with a minimum of 2 metres of space between each class. This will involve using the assembly hall as well. Dinners can only be purchased through ParentPay. Children will continue to play outside in delegated areas with those from their own class only.

## Equipment to School

Children can bring school bags and pencil cases as usual.



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## **MILK**

Milk will start on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September and will be payable through ParentPay. We will send more details in due course.

## **WATER BOTTLES**

Water fountains will be out of use in school. Should you wish your child to have water during the day please send this in.

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

**All** children are to be in full school uniform as usual. Plain black shoes must be worn by all children and should only be laced if the child can tie laces by him/herself. Also one flat signet ring, watch and stud earrings only.

## **Physical Education (PE)**

This will take place outside.

### **P.1 to P.3**

On the first day children are to bring a pair of PE gutties (not laced) in a draw string bag with names on everything. Please ensure that your child can put on and take off their shoes and gutties.

### **P.4 to P.7**

On the first day children are to bring a pair of training shoes and plain black, dark grey or navy jogging bottoms in a draw string bag with names on everything. Trainers should only be laced if the child is able to tie these by him/herself.

**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOUR CHILD'S NAME IS ON ALL PARTS OF THE SCHOOL UNIFORM AND THE PE KIT.**

## **HYGIENE**

Handwashing and good hygiene habits will be paramount to continue minimising the risk for everyone. Children will wash their hands as soon as they arrive, before eating, before going home and before using any shared equipment. The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' rule will also be reinforced. Please ensure that you continue to reinforce and practise all of these habits with your children.

## **COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL IS VITAL!**

- ✓ We must have up to date contact information so please make sure we have the correct mobile numbers and e mail addresses.
- ✓ You must ensure that you have downloaded the Schools NI app on to your phone, and that you have subscribed to our website, as this, at present, is the **main method** of communicating with you.
- ✓ You must register for ParentPay as the school is now 'cash less'. All permission slips will also be sent out through ParentPay.
- ✓ The whole school will now be moving to communication from parent to teacher via Seesaw. Please connect to this when you get an email from your child's teacher early next week.

The staff and I are looking forward to seeing all of the children next week and working together with everyone in the most effective and safest way possible in the new school term.

Yours sincerely,