**St Peter’s Primary School**

**Plumbridge**

**415 Lisnaragh Road, Plumbridge, Omagh, BT79 8AF**

**Tel: 028 816 48412 info@stpeters.plumbridge.ni.sch.uk**

**Principal: Miss S Falls**

**22nd July 2020**

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

There has been much speculation about when and how schools will reopen in August or September. One thing that we do know is that when schools reopen we will all have to adapt to a “new normal” in order to adhere to Social Distancing Guidelines so that the school remains safe for pupils and staff alike. This “new normal” will therefore require a lot of careful planning and consultation. Our main priority will be to minimise risk and try to ensure that every possible measure has been taken so that when we do reopen, all areas of concern will have been considered and that you can feel confident that your child’s health and well-being is our main priority as well as delivering education in the classroom combined with distance learning.

We understand that this ‘new normal’ may be difficult for you as it is for us, and that no new plan will suit every parent.

Currently the guidance outlines the requirement that children must adhere to 1 metre social distancing from each other and 2 metres social distancing from staff. If this restriction remains in place it will mean that schools will only be able to accommodate half the number in a class by teaching in ‘protective bubbles’. This would result in children attending school for two days a week, remaining in their protective bubbles and engaging in remote learning on the other three days. We realise that this is not the ideal situation for children, families or staff but the safety and well-being of our children will be key in the return to school. Remote learning will be in place for all children with a requirement for pupils to actively engage in submitting work and receiving feedback.

**Currently the situation for September 2020 is as follows; Monday 31st August is a Bank Holiday**

**Children in this group start back on Tuesday 1st September 3rd and 4th September**

Monday/Tuesday - Mrs Bradley P.6 (split class) 2 days; Thursday/Friday - P.7 – 2 days;

Monday/Tuesday - Mr Rouse P.5/6 (split class) – 2 days; Thursday/Friday - P.4 – 2 days;

Monday/Tuesday - Miss Falls P.3 – 2 days; Thursday/Friday 2 days Principal Release;

Monday/Tuesday - Ms Gallagher P.1 – 2 days; Thursday/Friday - P.2 – 2 days.

*The Year 6 class is split according to age;*

Mrs Bradley’s Room; Shea, Mia, Emma, Tiernan, Aiden, Aaron, Johnnie, Calvin, Darragh and Ronan

Mr Rouse’s Room; Orla, Patrick, Eimear, Dani, Caoimhin, Chloe, Clodagh and Saoirse.

Wednesday is kept for deep cleaning and teacher preparation. The classes will be split into bubbles ranging from 7 - 12 to accommodate most class sizes. This is the agreed plan that is in place for most schools in the Strabane Area.

It does however mean that a small number of family siblings would be coming to school on different days as we appreciate that the children would wish to stay in their year groups as far as possible.

Our School will open on **Monday 23rd August** for an induction Week for pupils and will focus on pupils’ emotional health and well – being and familiarize children with the new Covid -19 procedures.

**Monday 24th August – P.7 Pupils; Tuesday 25th August – P6/5 Pupils,**

**Wednesday 26th August – P.3 Pupils; Thursday 27th August – P.4 Pupils**

**Friday 28th August – P.2 Pupils**

**All children will be required to bring a packed lunch and a drink with them on these days. Currently it is not known what arrangements are in place for transport.**

There will be many changes to our school day (more information will follow) regarding staggered drop off and collection points and with this in mind all children in Year 3 will finish at 2 p.m. This will be reviewed again at Halloween.

* Pupils who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), including those who are pregnant, can attend school.
* Pupils who are shielding or who are living with someone who is shielding should only attend school, if they are able to stringently adhere to social distancing. The school needs to be informed of these pupils as soon as possible using the above school email account

An individual risk assessment will then need to be conducted for each of these pupils, before the most appropriate place of learning is determined.

It is important to realise that the science is changing all of the time and the guidance could well have changed significantly by the 1st of September. Whilst we plan for an eventual full reopening, the guidance issued by the Department of Education has been used to form the contingency plan outlined above. More updates will be provided when we hope that all of the dots will then be joined by the Department of Education and the Education Authority.

Finally, I would like to say thank you for your support and co-operation during this unprecedented time in all our lives and to wish you and the children a happy summer.

**Yours Sincerely**

**S Falls**

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**School Principal**