



St. Colman's Primary School
and
All Saints' Nursery Unit
(Annaclone)

24 Monteith Road,
Annaclone, Co. Down
BT32 5LS

Progress Through Partnership, Leading To Excellence



Principal: Mr K O'Neill
BEd. PQH(NI)

Tel: 028 40671363 Email: info@stcolmans.annaclone.ni.sch.uk
Twitter: @stcolmansps Web: www.stcolmansandallsaints.co.uk

Thursday 18th March 2021

Re-opening for all children The Education Minister has confirmed that all children will return to school on Monday 22nd March.

Before I set out these arrangements, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for their understanding and support since the lockdown was imposed upon schools in January. I know that this period has been challenging for many families, in particular when you have had to juggle work commitments with managing childcare and online learning.

Like most parents who have grown to love and cherish these last few months, sharing perfectly harmonious, blissfully special mother/father homeschooling time with your children, this news will come as a *devastating blow*...Anyway, when you have finished whooping/laughing uproariously and generally celebrating deliriously, please do take the time to read the full letter and arrangements right up to the Easter Break as set out below.

Primary 1 - 7: All children will return from Monday 22nd March

Although the risk of transmission of the Coronavirus has been reduced, we still need to continue to put measures in place in order to make the school as safe as we possibly can for all. It is essential that we all work together to ensure school remains as safe as possible by following the simple rules and routines. We will continue to stagger playtimes, lunchtimes and pick-up and drop-off times to limit contact between people

Pupils from P1-P7 will once again follow the bubble approach and work, play and eat with only those in their class during their time in school. Interaction between classes will be minimal and this approach along with our previous social distancing regulations and enhanced hygiene and cleaning procedures allows us to accept all pupils back on site within the current guidance. Children will enter and exit through the same doors as they did in December.

Children can be **dropped-off** between 8.30 – 8.55 (please do try to be punctual). Children will enter the school via the front gate. They will walk directly to their classroom via their designated entrance where they will sanitise their hands and have their temperature taken upon entry.



- Primary 1/2 children will be walked to the front gate at 1345 for **pick-up**. After Schools Club is again operational (x5 days a week for P1/P2 children) from 22/03 until 1435.
- Primary 3 children will be walked to the front gate at 1345 for **pick-up** on Monday and Friday. On T/W/Th they will be walked to the front gate at 1435. After Schools Club is again operational (on both Mon and Fri for P3 children) from 22/03
- Primary 4-7 children will be walked to front gate at 1435 for collection.
 - **We are hopeful that EASC can resume from Tuesday 13th of April, but we must await DE approval for this to commence.**
 - **Full Bus Service will resume again for all eligible children from Monday 22nd March.**

School uniform

Full uniform will be worn as normal. We ask that you try to keep uniforms as clean as possible. Children can continue to wear their PE gear into school on those days to help with the practicality of this.

While this means that we can now go ahead and allow all children to return at the beginning of the term, I would like to reassure you that we will continue to follow all PHA guidance and endeavour to mitigate the risk of the Covid-19 virus within our school through a range of safety measures.

Enhanced Focus on Safety Protocols

As a school community, we must re-focus our attention on the most up-to-date advice and guidance from the PHA. It is very important that we focus on our hand hygiene at all times and that we do our utmost to ensure that social distancing is maintained. We ask that parents are mindful of this when dropping-off and collecting children from school and that you continue to refrain from gathering in groups or breaking the 2m social distancing rule outside the school gates or nursery unit entrance. **Please ensure that the person who is collecting your children is aware of these guidelines.**

A close contact can be defined as someone who has been within 2m for more than 15 minutes or within 1m for any amount of time with a positive case. If we adhere to the guidelines, we will minimise the chances of being identified as possible close contacts and we will minimise the risk of a potential outbreak within the school.

If your child is feeling unwell, please do not send them to school until they are feeling better. If you or your child are showing Covid-19 symptoms, do not send them to school and contact the PHA helpline (119) to arrange a test. Your child

can return to school if the result is negative and if they are feeling well enough to do so. **We ask that you liaise closely with the school even if your child's symptoms are not Covid-19 related.**

We understand the challenges parents will face if we are asked to close a bubble within school. It is important that we do everything that we can to minimise the risk of this happening. In the event of a bubble being shut-down for a 10-day period, your child's teacher will lead their learning via the Seesaw app or through Google Classroom. In the event of your child going into isolation due to a positive case at home, your child's teacher will send work home via the same means.

I appreciate that for those families who are not in school at the moment, the prospect of returning may once again feel quite daunting. Please be reassured that the systems and routines that are now the norm, have not phased the children at all. If you have any questions, queries or concerns about your child returning to school please contact me at the school at any time koneill344@c2kni.net or 40671363.

I thank you for your continued patience and cooperation and look forward to working in closer partnerships again with yourselves soon. Best wishes to all of you. Best wishes and we will gladly accept your P45 forms as 'home schoolers' on Monday morning. **Thanks for all you've done.** Every piece of work, life learning skills, maths, writing or reading no matter how small will have made a difference. Welcome back girls and boys - not even 'remotely' the same without you.

Mr K O'Neill
Principal