



24/08/2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you and your families are well and enjoyed the summer break.

We look forward to welcoming the children from P2-7 back on Tue Aug 31st. This is a half day for pupils. The first full day of term is Wed Sept 1st. P3s will stay to 3pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays from Thur Sept 2nd. P1 children have their own individual starting dates in Sept. These were sent directly to P1 parents through ClassDojo.

Covid 19 advice from DE which was published last week highlighted the key role parents have in making schools safe by ensuring: -

“compliance with PHA guidance of child isolating due to:

The child having COVID-19 symptoms, in which case parents should book a PCR test and support the child to isolate with close contacts of the child following PHA protocols for self-isolation.

The child being identified as a close contact, either as a household member of a symptomatic or confirmed case, or as a close contact of a case not in their household.

The child having returned to Northern Ireland from another country and isolating in line with NI Direct Travel advice and regulations.”

The symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature); OR
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual); OR
- a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste.

We will continue to operate class bubbles as far as possible. Social distancing requirements for adults still remain and we ask that parents keep this in mind when dropping off and collecting children.

Messages for teachers should be sent through ClassDojo. Teachers will endeavour to check Dojo before school starts every day, but cannot guarantee an immediate response. They will not be checking Dojo during teaching time.

Please ensure that you make firm afterschool arrangements with older children who walk home from school on their own. Occasionally the office staff are asked to give messages to

children regarding where to go afterschool. This is not possible in current circumstances, except in an emergency.

P1 -3 pupils will be able to use their book bags to carry their reading books and homework to and from school this year. Book bags are available to purchase for P1 and 2 children from their teacher. P3s already have a book bag.

P4-7 pupils can use a small school bag to bring their reading books and homework to and from school this year, if they wish.

Breakfast Club will be available from Monday Sept 6th at 8am for children in P2-7. 123 Club will also be available from 2-3pm from the same date. However, both of these clubs must be booked in advance and places will be limited. A booking form will be available early next week. 123/ Breakfast Clubs will cost £3 per session or £1.50 for those on Free School Meals.

- All children should wash their hands thoroughly just before they leave for school in the morning. They will also be offered sanitiser as they enter the school.
- To ease congestion in the morning we ask for your cooperation with a staggered arrival. Children with surnames beginning with A to L should arrive between 8.45am and 8.55am. All other children should arrive between 8.55am and 9.05am.
- Children, other than those in P1 and P2, should be dropped off at the gate and go straight to their classrooms in the morning, to avoid crowds congregating in the playground. If this causes anxiety for some children, we will be flexible.
- Parents must **not** enter the school building without a prior appointment.
- Parents who wish to speak to their child's teacher must arrange this through ClassDojo or by telephoning the office.
- All children from P2-P7 should bring the following stationery items **to be kept in school** so that children do not have to share resources. **Please label these items with your child's name** - HB pencils x 2, rubber, sharpener, Pritt stick, small ruler, small set of colouring pencils/crayons, whiteboard marker x 2 and tissues. If you have difficulties getting any of these items, we will supply your child with the item, but wouldn't have enough for each child.
- Our usual Healthy Break Policy still applies. Your child may bring a bottle of still water to school with them as usual.
- School meals will continue to be served in classrooms, initially at least. They cost £2.60 per day or £13 per week. Money must be sent in a sealed and labelled envelope. No change will be given.
- The playground is very congested at 2pm on Fridays so the following arrangements apply.

Eldest/only Child	Collect all your children at
P1-2	1.40pm
P3-4	1.50pm
P5-7	2pm

- Please maintain social distance in the playground when waiting to collect your child after school and leave the playground as soon as you have collected them. Roses will

be stencilled 2m apart in congested areas to encourage this. Parents of older children may want to arrange to meet them away from the school, perhaps at the library or a local shop.

- Adult visitors to the school (by prior appointment only) should wear a mask/face covering, unless exempt.

Other information

Parents/guardians who were in receipt of Free School Meals/Uniform Grant last year were not sent a pre-populated form for this year. All parents (including new applicants) are required to apply on-line via the EA website <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals>. Parents/ guardians are being advised of the importance of providing valid Bank or Building Society account details in the claimant's own name. Payments cannot be made into Post Office accounts. To be eligible you must be receiving one of the benefits listed below.

- Income Support
- Income-Based Jobseeker's Allowance (if you receive Contribution-Based Jobseeker's Allowance you will not qualify under this benefit)
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) - if you receive Contribution-Based ESA you will not qualify under this benefit
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit and/or Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable household income not exceeding £16,190
- Universal Credit with net household earnings not exceeding £14,000 per year
- An Asylum Seeker supported by the Home Office Asylum Support Assessment Team (ASAT)

Flu Vaccine will be offered to all children in school on Wed Oct 20th.

If you have changed address or telephone number, please email the school to let us know the correct contact details. If your child has any new medical needs, please email the school to let us know. info@stthereseoflisieux.belfast.ni.sch.uk

The 2021/22 holiday list is available on the website https://www.stthereseoflisieux.co.uk/cmsfiles/items/downloads/2021-05-18_11_51_19//Final_Holiday_List_2021-2022.pdf

Looking forward to seeing you all very soon.

Kind regards

S McTaggart
Principal