



194 Listooder Road
Saintfield
Co. Down
BT24 7JA

Tel: 028 97510407

www.academyprimary.com
Email: rfegan499@c2kni.net

Dear Parent,

1st March 2021

Nursery and P1-3 return to school on 8th March

Children in Nursery and P1-3 will return to school on Monday 8th March. We cannot wait to see them!

Start and finish times will be same as they were before Christmas. Arrival and dismissal will also be at the same locations as before. Classes will continue to practise good hygiene and all Covid-safe protocols will be followed to the same degree as before Christmas. Classes will continue to operate in bubbles and the sharing of resources will be limited.

Please remember to send in your child's pencil case, folders, blue school bags (P1 and P2).

P.E. kits to be worn on PE days as before. We would also appreciate it if **all P1-3 reading books were returned next Monday**. Do not worry if you have numerous reading books still at home, they will be greatly received on return!

Meals

A menu for P1-3 hot meals will go on our website on Wednesday 3rd March and you can book in for dinners from Thursday 4th onwards.

School Transport

The school bus will also operate from Monday 8th March for P1-3. If your child normally gets the bus, please contact our bus driver, Peter, directly on 07517965236 if you are wanting to avail of transport.

Learning and Well-being

The emphasis from 8th March will be on reassuring children and their parents. There will be a focus on supporting children to reconnect socially, build positive relationships and engage enthusiastically with learning as they return to the school environment. In particular, for our youngest children, teachers know the importance of providing opportunities to be actively involved in practical, challenging play-based learning in a stimulating environment. The vision is for a balanced day where children are able to play and feel ready to learn and re-connect.

Whilst it is important not to underestimate the task that faces us in terms of ascertaining where the children are with their learning, evidence indicates that missed knowledge content in itself is not likely to be a long-term problem for pupils, as long as they are given supportive tools to facilitate learning. **Language is important and frequent references to "missed work" or "lost time" or "catch up" will potentially increase pupil anxiety.** The aim is to support pupils to be motivated to learn through a curriculum that gives equal emphasis to knowledge, understanding and skills rather than catching up missed knowledge content.

When the children return to Academy Primary and Nursery School they will not be greeted with tests, but with love and compassion!

Supervised Learning P4-7 from 8th March

For those parents using this facility, please continue to e-mail me directly by Thursday 3pm each week to book your children in for the following week.

Learning Packs (P4-7)

Learning packs for P4-7 can be collected from school on **Friday 5th March** at the following times:

P4M, P5KR, P6M, P7E – **1200-1300**

P4L, P5RM, P6K, P7D – **1300 -1400**

For the week beginning 22nd March, P1-3 will take their learning pack and any siblings' learning packs home with them on Friday 19th March.

For pupils in P4-7 without siblings in P1-3, their learning packs can be collected from classroom doors on 19th March between 0930 and 1030. Here's hoping no more learning packs will go home thereafter and that face-to-face teaching can resume after Easter.

Many thanks for your continued patience, encouragement and support,

R. W. Fegan
Principal