

Dear Parent,

25th February, 2020

Welcome back. I hope all families associated with Academy Primary and Nursery School continue to keep well and that everyone managed to get a break from home-schooling last week.

***Supervised Learning***

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.

***Nursery and P1-3 return to school on 8<sup>th</sup> March***

Children in Nursery and P1-3 will return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We will be delighted to welcome them back. Start and finish times will be same as they were before Christmas. Arrival and dismissal will also be at the same locations as before.

I cannot help but feel frustrated that our Primary 6 children were not included in the return to school plans laid out by the Department of Education. My frustrations have been voiced in a letter sent to Minister Weir for his consideration and response.

If the media is to be believed there is still ambiguity regarding P4-7 return dates. I am reluctant to lay out full details of our return to school plans until I receive clarity from the Department of Education next week.

***Primary 7 Transfer Consultations***

These will take place via Zoom from 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March. Please refer to my e-mail to P7 parents for details.

***School Uniform***

In November I wrote to parents detailing that we would reinstate shirts and ties in January. With lockdown this did not happen. When children return to school in March/April they can wear a shirt and tie if you have purchased them. If you haven't already bought shirts and ties, polo shirts are fine. **From 4<sup>th</sup> May** our Summer uniform is acceptable. This is our usual practice annually. Girls can wear their gingham dresses (or polo shirts and jumpers) and boys can wear polo shirts and jumpers from 4<sup>th</sup> May onwards. Apologies for the confusion surrounding uniform.

***St Patrick's Day***

School will be closed for all pupils on 17<sup>th</sup> March as previously notified.

***May 2021 holidays/ School Development Days***

As previously notified in August/September 2020, school will be closed on the following dates:

29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> April and 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May.

***Mental Health and Emotional Well-being Day – 26<sup>th</sup> February***

This Friday we will have an **emotional well-being day**. No Literacy or Numeracy will be set that day. Instead, our well-being team at Academy PS will offer advice and activities for the children, focussing on their mental health and emotional well-being. The morning session will include activities on emotional regulation, anxiety management, breathing techniques and mindfulness. The afternoon session will have a focus on physical activity and hobbies. Feel free to send me any pictures of the activities your children do that day and I will share some of these on social media.

Many thanks for your continued patience, encouragement and support,

R. W. Fegan  
Principal