

# Donemana Primary School Restart Plan

## August 2020



Donemana Primary School will, as always, put the needs of our pupils first. The plan detailed in this document will be flexible and adapted as appropriate considering PHA and DE guidance, and the needs of our children. We recognise the huge impact the situation will have had on our families and will do our best to support our community as we move from 'Lockdown' to the 'New Normal'. Our key focus will always be on the health and well-being of our pupils and staff.

### Key aims:

- To support the health and well-being of our pupils and staff.
- To reengage our pupils with learning and school life.
- To nurture the development of independent learning.

### Key considerations:

- DE Guidance
- DE / EA risk assessments
- Safety measures
- Cleaning regime and procedures
- School premises – size of classrooms, hand washing facilities, entrance and exit procedures etc.
- Staff deployment
- PHA guidelines
- Adaptations to existing policies

Dear Parent,

Following the announcement by Education Minister Mr Peter Weir on 6<sup>th</sup> August, all children will be returning to school full time in September, however 'this is not a return to business as usual'.

Our restart plan, detailed below, has been changed in consultation with staff and our school's Board of Governors, with the health and safety of our full school community at the fore of our minds.

We will now be proceeding with **Plan B**. This document is still to be **viewed as a point in time**. We have planned the best we can but please be mindful that this is a very **fluid situation**.

We are very mindful of the importance of safety and cooperating with the Government guidelines as we strive to find a 'new normal' in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. As Minister Weir also says 'schools are taking all steps possible to keep the school a safe environment for children...However, schools cannot deliver this safe environment alone – we all have a duty of care to wider society...to be vigilant and act responsibly.

A key element will be ensuring the procedures and risk mitigation strategies are strictly adhered to.

The details below should explain everything, however if you have any concerns or questions please email ([ghay546@c2kni.net](mailto:ghay546@c2kni.net)) or phone me directly (02871398633).

<b>Plan A</b>	<b>Plan B</b>	<b>Plan C</b>	<b>Plan D</b>
<b>Whole School Back</b> School is fully operational with all aspects of school life running normally.	<b>Whole School Back</b> Each class operates as a 'bubble'. Focus on Pastoral Support, health and well-being, numeracy and literacy.	<b>School is back through blended learning</b> Pupils attend school 2 days each week and participate in remote learning 3 days each week. Family groups attend school on the same days.	Lockdown – School is Closed Pupils and staff are fully engaged in remote learning
<b>No breakfast club / after school provision in operation (to be kept under constant review)</b>			

### Plan summary

- 'Bubble' system in operation
- Staggered finish times
- No Breakfast Club, After School Activities or homework club (this will be reviewed regularly)

## **Class Bubble**

Each class will be known as a 'Bubble'. Each bubble will be its own separate entity and will not mix with any other bubble during the school day, including break and lunch times. Children will have allocated toilet times.

Bubble teachers will be:

P1: Mrs Young and Miss Sayers

P2/3: Miss Nutt

P4/5: Mrs McCusker and Mrs Hay

P5/6: Mr Potts

P7: Mrs Timoney

## **Return Dates**

In line with our original plan and other countries such as the Netherlands which have successfully restarted education, and also to introduce the children to new procedures in a measured fashion, taking cognisance of their health and well-being, we will be using a phased approach to resuming school.

P7 Group A: Attend Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August; then daily from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September

P7 Group B: Attend Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August; then daily from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September

P2 – P6 Group A: Attend Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August and Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August then daily from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September

P2 – P6 Group B: Attend Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August and Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August then daily from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September

P1: Separate information provided

Note: school dinners will not be available until 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 – more details to follow

## **Arrival at school**

We have not staggered the start times for each Year Group in order to minimise disruption for families. However, we will monitor the situation and, if the planned arrangements are causing congestion and resulting in too many interactions around the entry/exit points, we will consider introducing staggered times.

We must all accept our collective responsibility to prevent virus spread. Whilst we understand the importance of connecting socially with other members of the school community, we strongly advise parents/carers not to congregate around the site. It is

important to be aware that should a cluster of cases of the virus be identified in our school community, then we could be instructed to close for a period of time in accordance with the Public Health requirements for preventing transmission of the virus. It is essential that each of us does everything we can to prevent such an eventuality arising.

In order to keep the number of adults coming on to the school site to a minimum, it is recommended that parents only escort children as far as the school gate.

Also, face coverings must be worn during adult to adult meetings lasting more than 15 minutes and by adults visiting the school site.

Temperatures will be taken on arrival. Parents must stay with pupils until they enter the school gate. Parents are asked not to enter the school grounds. Social distancing markers will be on the pavement to show children where to stand while waiting to make their way through the school gate.

Children presenting with **ANY** Covid-19 symptoms **MUST NOT ATTEND** and households must follow PHA advice.

Children not travelling by school bus **cannot arrive before 8.45am** and will make their way directly to their classroom.

### **Home Time**

For the month of September home times will be as follows (this will be reviewed for October).

P1: 1pm from the school gate

P2 and P3: 2pm from the school gate

P4 – P7:

Surname	Collection time
A – H	2.45
I - Z	3.00

Siblings can be collected at earlier home times of 1pm or 2pm if this is more convenient for parents.

Parents are asked to socially distance (2m) at the school gate while awaiting to collect children or wait in their car if appropriate.

### **School Transport (as per DE guidance)**

It is advised that home to school transport should only be used where there is **no alternative** available. Children who can safely walk or cycle to school are encouraged to do so. Please ensure children wear a helmet if cycling.

It is also strongly recommended that all pupils, regardless of age, should wear a face covering on buses (if they can handle them as directed and if it will not cause them distress).

On arrival at school they will be asked to bin disposable face coverings. For those using reusable face coverings please ensure your child brings a plastic bag to store their used face covering in for washing and has a fresh face covering for their journey home.

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure children wash hands before leaving home and carry tissues. Children should sit with their siblings on the bus.

### **Hygiene**

Pupils will use hand sanitiser as they enter the school and will immediately proceed to wash their hands before taking their seat in the classroom.

Children will be asked to wash their hands frequently during the school day.

Classrooms will have cleaning products which the class teacher will use throughout the day to clean frequently touched surfaces.

Children are asked to bring a packet of paper tissues and, if parents wish them to use it, an individual small bottle of hand sanitiser in a clear labelled plastic zip bag to keep on their desk.

At home, children should be regularly reminded of the significance of hand hygiene in preventing the spread of the Covid-19 virus. To prepare children for restarting school, you should ensure that they know how to wash their hands properly for at least twenty seconds with soap and water. This will be particularly important for younger children.

### **'Catch It, Bin It, Kill It'**

Please explain the importance of good respiratory hygiene to your children and encourage them to follow the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach. Children should be discouraged from touching their eyes, face, nose and mouth. Please show them how to cough or sneeze into their elbow if they do not have a tissue. When using a tissue, they should be shown how to cough or sneeze into it and then dispose of it safely into the nearest bin. Your help in building a level of routine in relation to respiratory hygiene would be much appreciated.

### **Covid-19 Symptoms**

If any child presents with any Covid-19 symptoms (high temperature, continuous cough, change in taste/smell) they and any members of their household within the school will be removed from the bubble and taken to the isolation room to await collection by a parent. Parents will be advised to follow the PHA guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection. Parents will be asked to record their acknowledgement of this request.

Pupils who have been part of the same 'bubble' as anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19 must follow PHA guidelines and self-isolate and undertake a test under the Test and Trace and Protect System.

Pupils with any symptoms associated with Covid-19 should not attend school.

### **Equipment required**

No school bags or any other items are to be brought to the school until further notice.

Children will be provided with individual stationary packs in school.

Only a water bottle and mid-morning snack, a packed lunch in a wipe able container (no fabric lunch bags) and a coat may be brought to school.

Pupils are asked to wear clean uniform every day – this can be school uniform or PE uniform regardless of the day.

### **Homework**

Homework will be set via the home learning area of the website and sent in electronically as during closure.

All letters and newsletters will be uploaded to the school website and sent out via the app – no paper copies will be available.

### **Money in to school**

Money must be sent to school in plastic – cling film or a money bag. Money will be only accepted on a Monday and must be left in the labelled box. We are currently investigating cashless options and can discuss bank transfers with those who are interested.

### **Supporting our pupils**

It is difficult to know the range of experiences each pupil and family will have dealt with during this pandemic. Therefore, we will be focusing a lot of our learning in Term 1 on health, well-being and resilience.

### **Pupils with medical needs**

Parents of pupils with **ANY** medical needs must contact school and speak directly with Mrs Hay **before the child attends school** to ensure an individual risk assessment can be drawn up and proper procedures put in place.

Pupils living with someone who was previously shielding needs to have a risk assessment conducted **before they return to school**.

**Our plans are dependent upon the Covid-19 situation and are therefore open to change. You will be notified as soon as possible via our website, App and Facebook page if there are any changes to this plan.**

In these unprecedented times we have fully appreciated your understanding and support as we try to ensure the safety of our school community. As we move forward we trust we can rely on your support as we begin our journey to a 'New Normal'.

The last few months have been extremely challenging for us all and we hope and pray all our school community and wider community continues to stay safe. I would like to again thank you for your continued support. We are very excited about welcoming our pupils back to school.

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs Hay