



Orritor Primary School

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Cookstown
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Principal:

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Wednesday 22nd September 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is great to have your children back at school and to see them settling in so well! Once again, thank you all for your warm welcome to the school, and for your cooperation in helping to protect our school community.

Please consider the following arrangements regarding upcoming events and mitigation measures regarding Covid-19:

Public Health Agency and Contact Tracing

As you will be aware, the PHA have now taken over the role of contact tracing and advice in school settings. In light of this, positive cases in households will now be discussed with PHA and advice will come from them on what to do. However, if a pupil at our school does test positive for Covid-19, it is important that the school is also informed of this.

Mitigations

As a school, we will continue to implement procedures to help mitigate risk. Some such mitigations are, increased wearing of masks for staff, sanitising regularly, staggered break and lunches and an appointment-only policy for entry to school.

In addition to these procedures, already in place, we have temporarily allocated each class a specific toilet block to ensure that classes are not mixing unnecessarily. Within each class, staff are managing this to ensure that children are not mixing in the toilets at any time.

Parent Support Group

The school is fortunate to have a very active and involved Parent Support Group. Over the years, the PSG have raised considerable amounts of money for the benefit of the pupils and have supported the school in many different events. Although things are still not 'normal,' it is important that the PSG continues to meet and attracts new members who have a passion for the school.

In the incoming weeks, you will be given more detail on how to join and a date will also be set for the first meeting. In the meantime, if you are interested in the work of the PSG, contact Mrs Black, our Vice-Principal at school, and she will give you more information.

Parent-Teacher Interviews/SEN Interviews

Interviews for parents and teachers are planned for the week beginning Monday 11th October. At this stage, it is likely that these will not be face-to-face interviews but may take the form of video calling. Further information will be released shortly.

Cookstown 100

As a school, we want to thank the organisers of the Cookstown 100 for their help and support in ensuring a smooth arrival and departure for our school community, this year.

Flu Vaccine

The flu vaccine is planned for Tuesday 2nd November.

Anti-Bullying week

Anti-bullying week is planned for the week beginning, Monday 15th November. During this week, we will focus on the theme for the year through assemblies, class lessons and videos.

Policies

We are currently reviewing our 'Safeguarding and Child Protection' and our 'Intimate Care' policies in school. Consultation with stakeholders is a vital part of policy design and implementation and as parents, your views are of paramount importance. In the incoming weeks, you will be directed to our school website to read and comment on these policies and we would appreciate as much feedback as possible to ensure these policies reflect our school procedures and ethos.

Shoebox Appeal

Many of you will be aware of the Shoebox Appeals which take place across Northern Ireland and provide a fantastic way for our community to 'give back' at Christmas time. As a school, it is important that we instil in our pupils the importance of being 'outward looking' as well as 'inward.' In light of this, we are facilitating a shoebox collection for anyone who would like to support this worthwhile cause. If you want to fill a shoebox, please see the flyer on the school website which gives further information on what you should include. There will also be further correspondence and guidance on shoeboxes throughout the incoming weeks.

School App

Please ensure that you have our school app downloaded onto your phone or tablet. The app is free of charge and is one of the main ways in which we can communicate with you. Please bear with us as we try to fix issues with the app sending things twice etc.

Once again, many thanks for all of your support to our school.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Andrew Frizzell

Mr Andrew Frizzell
Principal