

ROSEMOUNT PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL



September 20120
NEWSLETTER

**HELEN STREET
DERRY
BT48 9DD
028 71265605**

I am delighted to welcome all our pupils back to school under what we now refer to as the 'new norm'. We frequently underestimate our children who have adapted to new procedures and rules with tremendous ease. Thank you also to our parents, carers and of course grandparents for co-operating so well with our new drop-off and pick-up procedures. They have worked better than expected, due in no small part to everyone playing their part. I expect nothing else from our school community who have pulled well together during these very challenging times.



New Procedures

The following procedures are in place to ensure pupil, staff and visitor safety;

- *Designated entrances for each class*
- *Staggered drop-off and pick-up times*
- *Regular hand-washing within the classroom*
- *Hand sanitising stations at key points around the school*
- *Additional cleaning duties employed*
- *Risk assessments carried out*
- *The 'bubble' concept deployed for each classroom as far as is practicable.*
- *2m distancing for each class in the canteen with table service only*
- *Doors and windows left open where appropriate*
- *Exchange of materials from home to school, including homeworks, reduced to a minimum*
- *Visits to the school building limited to appointment or emergency visit only*
- *Designated area allocated for health visitors, educational psychologists, etc*
- *Facemasks to be worn by visitors.*
- *Staff deployed at key areas in and around the building at drop-off and pick-up times*

We review our procedures regularly and welcome comments on any areas for improvement that you wish to suggest.

First Communion

Best wishes to all the pupils making their First Holy Communion this Thursday. It has been unfortunate that this celebration has been delayed for so long and that restrictions have to be put in place at this time. We hope the children have a special day never the less and that God remains with them in a special way throughout their lives.



Jim McCafferty (photographer) will take photos in the church and will be available before and after mass for those who would like photos taken. Booking is advisable (tel. 07506578225).

We have been informed additional parking will be available in the church grounds – access from Francis St.

*Pupils do NOT need to attend school on Thursday but will be marked present and should come to school on **Monday** in their First Communion outfits*

What happens in the event of a confirmed Covid 19 case?

Detailed guidance on procedures across all schools can be found on our school website.

If your child displays symptoms of Covid 19, keep your child off school and get them tested. Contact the school immediately by telephone. At weekends, the school can be contacted by email – pbradley571@c2kni.net. This email address is checked on Saturday and Sunday.

*If a person within the school tests positive, we will track and trace everyone that this person has come in to contact with for a significant period of time (mostly the class that this person belongs to). They will be asked to stay off school for 14 days. Work will be provided for pupils who are off school due to Covid 19. **Please note; we will not disclose names of individuals who have tested positive but will make you aware if your child has been in contact.** In such cases the school will follow closely the guidance of the Education Authority and The Public Health Authority.*

Car Parking

*We are experiencing increased use of our car park due to the new drop off and pick up arrangements. We've deployed John and Kevin to the carpark to assist with congestion and although this is working well **we rely heavily on your co-operation and patience.** Teachers try to have their classes out on time but this is not always possible. Please avoid lengthy parking in Helen St and Marlborough Rd and arrive as close to your child's pick-up time as possible. Always be courteous to our neighbours as good relationships with those who live close by is important to us. We monitor regularly how well traffic is moving and very few cars have to wait more than 10 minutes. Thanks to Kevin and John who are doing a great job with traffic management.*

Attendance during Covid 19

*Pupils who've been directed by the school to stay at home as a result of Covid19 will be given work to complete during their period of isolation. In such cases the pupils must show evidence that they have engaged with the work that they have been sent home – these pupils will be marked with a Covid 19 code under these circumstances. Pupils who do not attend school and who do not have documented evidence to justify staying at home will be marked **absent**. The Education Welfare Officer will contact parents of pupils whose attendance falls below 85%.*

Google Classroom

In the event of a return to blended learning (home-schooling) we will continue to provide support to parents as was the case during lockdown. Staff have now received training in Google Classrooms and will be passing this training on to the pupils and to you, the parents, over the next few weeks. We will not bombard parents with too much 'new learning' or technology but will do this at a pace which suits everyone.

The Curriculum

During this settling in period we have focussed on making sure that procedures we have in place enjoy the confidence of our entire school community. This has been a time of great worry for so many people. Staff have worked hard to ensure pupils have settled in well and that their social and emotional well-being has been a high priority. Staff have also been base-lining to identify gaps in pupil learning and have focused on developing cross-curricular skills of communication, using mathematics and using ICT.

Bike Week !

Next week is Bike Week. We encourage all our pupils to come to school by bicycle or scooter to encourage active travel, a healthier way to commute to school and be environmentally friendly at the same time. Pupils who bring their bike to school on Thursday next week (1st October) will get extra play time at lunch time to ride/scoot about in the playground!

School Holidays

Friday 2nd October

Monday 26th – Friday 30th October