

Ampertaine Primary School

Proposals for New School Day 2020-21

Dear parents,

Thank you for your patience in waiting for the guidance for our return to school in August/ September. I'm sure you'll appreciate that the Covid-19 situation still remains a fluid and rapidly changing one. We acknowledge that many of you will be eager to make childcare arrangements etc. and so have decided to issue our plans now. When exploring various options for return to school we have taken careful consideration of many factors in addition to health, safety and wellbeing of staff and pupils. These have included impact on pupil education, pupil development with regards to emotional and mental health, pressure on families for childcare and the needs of vulnerable children and those with SEN. Please read the details below carefully which explain our plans for reopening.

Should you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact school using the school email address

New School Day Arrangements

Based on DE guidance: NORTHERN IRELAND RE-OPENING SCHOOLS GUIDANCE NEW SCHOOL DAY

Return to school for school staff (teachers and classroom assistants)	Monday 17 th August
Return to school for Primary 7 Children	Monday 24 th August (full time 5 days)
Return to school for Primary 1-6 Children	Tuesday 1 st September

All pupils in all classes will be returning to school on a full time basis.

- Utilising all available space in classrooms, tables are distanced as much as physically possible to 1 metre apart. Extra furniture and resources that can be operated without, has been removed to provide as much space as possible to distance pupils as best we can.
- All pupils are 1 metre apart and are 2 metres from staff members.
- The hall has been utilised to enable this provision to occur.
- As far as possible the children in each class group will form a 'protective bubble'. These children will stay with each other and interactions with other groups will be minimised. This use of 'protective bubbles' will be in place for all aspects of the school day including lunch and play times.
- Handwashing on entry to classrooms and before break and lunch will be exercised. Sanitising stations will be available at the entrance in each classroom.
- There will be staggered start and finish times to the school day to minimise congestion around school and the gate. (see tables below) Where possible staff will direct pupils to cars so that parents do not have to approach the school gate.
- There will be staggered break and lunch times to minimise interactions between pupils in different bubbles. (more information to follow)



Memorable Learning

- One bag should be used in which they will carry minimal books/ resources to and from school. These should be cleaned/ sanitised before coming to school and when pupils arrive home. The same should be done with lunchboxes. Pupils should not bring items, such as toys, from home into school.
- Each pupil should bring the items stated in the letter with their report. These will then stay in school and ONLY be used by that pupil. The school will provide pupils with some additional individual resources.

Breakfast Club and C.I.A

- At present we will NOT be able to provide the same all round care as previously. To ensure all guidelines are followed and more importantly our pupils and staff are safe we do not feel it would be appropriate to try to provide these services.
- This will be constantly reviewed as more guidance from the EA is provided and we hope to make adjustments by half term.

Journey to School and Drop Off/Pick Up

- In order to avoid congestion and gatherings of people, pupils should be dropped off within their allocated timeslot for drop off and pick up. Families will be split into groups. *(Your family group will be assigned prior to school restart)*
- School drop off will be from 8:30am. Pupils are NOT to gather in the playground. Once dropped off they will proceed into school and to their classroom.
- School pick up will be from 1:40pm/2:40pm. This again is to assist staff to enable them to maintain the correct distancing as the children leave school. Families will be split into groups. *(Your family group will be assigned prior to school restart)*
- P1 pupils will initially be *collected at 11:45am before lunch begins in the rest of the school.*

Break time and Lunch time

- Food will be eaten in the classrooms. This includes school cooked meals.
- The use of the front and back playgrounds will be staggered to enable more 'protective bubbles' to be outside and giving our pupils quality time outside.

PLEASE BE VIGILANT: If your child/ren child appear unwell or display any of the symptoms of Covid-19 they should not be sent to school. Symptoms of Covid-19 include: -

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature), or;
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual), or;
- anosmia - the loss or a change in your normal sense of smell (it can also affect your sense of taste) Source: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-overview-and-advice>

The above arrangements may be subject to change based on any changes that are made to guidance issued from Department of Education NI.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.
Mr M Dillon (Principal)