09 March 2021

Stephenstown, Balbriggan, Co Dublin. K32AX94

*Baile Stiofáin, Baile Brigín, Co. BÁC.* K32AX94

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you know the Department of Education has developed guidance for a staggered return to school which began on 22nd February 2021, for children with additional needs. The next phase began on Monday 1st March for children in Junior Infants, Senior Infants, First and Second Classes. The final phase for primary schools begins on Monday 15th March for pupils in Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Classes. This involves schools putting in place plans to prepare for this. You are being asked to confirm if your child is returning to school by use of Dojo. We advise all families to read the information below on a daily basis before sending your child to school to ensure the health and safety of all other pupils and staff. In addition, you must complete the Return to School Declaration on behalf of your child. This document will be made available to all families through Aladdin Connect on Sunday 14th March where you can return it electronically. The form will also be on the School Website where you may print it off and return it with your child in hard copy format on Monday 15th March.

**Arrival & Dismissal:**

The staggered arrival times will continue for this term,

* Pupils with surname beginning with A - N arrive between 8:45am and 9:00am
* Pupils with surname beginning with O – Z arrive between 9:00am and 9:15am

The staggered dismissal times will also continue this term,

* Third and Fourth Classes at 2.30pm from the school playground
* Fifth and Sixth Classes at 2:40pm from the school playground

Pupils who had permission to walk home unaccompanied in Term 1 also have this for Terms 2 and 3.

Parents are reminded that they should not congregate at the school at any time. Masks must be worn on the school campus.

**Books & Homework:**

All books and baskets that were collected in January should be returned to school on the 15th March.

Homework will not be given for the first week and your child’s class teacher will be in contact after this to facilitate a staggered return to full homework.

**School Attendance:**

Your child should not attend school if they:

* Are feeling unwell;
* Display any of the following symptoms: persistent cough, high temperature, loss of taste, loss of smell or difficulty breathing;
* Have been given any temperature reducing medication in the previous 48 hours for any reason (e.g. Calpol or Neurofen);
* Are waiting to take a Covid test or awaiting the results of a Covid test;
* Have tested positive for Covid 19 in the past 14 days;
* Have been identified as a close contact of a person who has tested positive for Covid 19;
* Have been advised by a doctor or the HSE to self-isolate at this time;
* Have been advised by a doctor or the HSE to cocoon at this time;
* Have been advised by your doctor or the HSE that you are in the very high-risk group.

If you say yes for your child in any of the above, they cannot attend school until instructed by your GP or the HSE.

* It is school policy if your child presents with any of these symptoms during the school day your child will be sent home.
* Parents are reminded that they should not congregate at the school at any time.
* You may contact the school at scoilchormaiccns@ddletb.ie or if you wish to speak with a teacher, we will arrange a telephone call.
* Please ensure your contact and your emergency contact details are up to date with school so that there is no unnecessary delay in a sick child going home.

Thank you for your cooperation for this. We look forward to seeing your child.

Kind regards,

Deirdre Corcoran