******St. Patrick’s Primary School,**

**Legamaddy**

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Principal: Mrs Sarah McDowell

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August 2021

Dear Parent,

I hope you are all well and enjoying the summer break. We have received updated guidance for the return to school from the DENI.

To date we have managed the impact of COVID very effectively and I feel at this point we move forward cautiously. Therefore, many of our already established routines will remain in place with a relaxing in some areas. Any relaxations will be closely monitored and reviewed and may be subject to change if required.

**Morning Routine:**

Children can arrive at school from 8.30am and either go to breakfast club (children only initially) or play outside. We will no longer take temperatures on entry to school, but all children will continue to use sanitiser and on arrival at their classroom will wash their hands. The school day begins at 8.55am and children will make their way to their classroom at this time.

**Break Time:**

Children will wash hands before going out and any equipment used will be cleaned after. We will have two break time sessions to maximise the space available, public health advice is that outdoor spaces can limit transmission.

*P1,2 &3 will have break at 10.15am and P4,5,6,7 will have break at 10.30am.*

**Lunch Time:**

The guidance advises that it is no longer appropriate to serve children their dinners in the classroom, therefore we will return to the dinner hall for all classes. There will be two sessions with each class sitting together at a designated table, the hall will be always ventilated, and children will remain seated throughout.

 *P1,2 & 3 dinners will be served first in the dinner hall from 12pm while P4,5,6 & 7 go outside at 12.30pm the two groups will swap settings.*

Dinner can be booked and paid for £2.60 using our cashless system SchoolMoney

**Home Time:**

We ask that parents do not congregate at drop off/pick up times, wear masks and adhere to the social distancing guidance.

*P1,2 & 3 will finish at 2pm Mon to Thurs and 1.45pm Fri*

*P4, 5, 6 & 7 will finish at 3pm Mon to Thurs and 2pm Fri*

**Additional Information:**

* School bags are permitted this year
* Children can come into school in PE gear on PE days
* Sharing resources for example: reading books, computers and iPads are permitted this year. Therefore, children will be given reading books and homework folders that can be returned to school daily.
* Classrooms will continue to be ventilated with windows open
* Good hand hygiene will be encouraged throughout the day
* “Catch it, Bin it, Kill it” approach will continue to be encouraged, we recommend that you provide your child with a packet of tissues.

If your child shows any symptoms of the COVID-19 virus he/she should stay at home and your household should follow the most current Public Health Advice.

**Current, advice is that if your child is a close contact, they isolate on day 1, get tested using a PCR test on day 2 if this test is negative, they can return to school and retest on day 8, if positive they must continue to isolate for 10 days and follow advice from the Public Health Authority.**

New Seesaw accounts will be set up with your child’s new teacher on return to school, I encourage you to update the account with new codes as soon as possible. Seesaw is used as direct communication between the class teacher and parents.

In the event of school closure due to COVID-19 our established remote learning policy will be adopted.

Any parent wishing to contact their child’s teacher can phone the office to arrange a suitable time for a return phone call. There will be no face-to-face parental meetings initially.

School reopens on Tuesday 31st August, we look forwarded to welcoming everyone back to what hopes to be a year full of excellent learning opportunities with happy, healthy children and staff.

**There will be no bus or school dinners on Tuesday 31st August**

Take care and God bless,

Mrs McDowell

(Principal)