

# **BALLYSILLAN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **Parents' Newsletter**

### **September 2021**

**Welcome back**, Ballysillan parents and children, it's nice to see so many familiar, friendly faces back in school. I also wish to extend a warm welcome to the new pupils and new staff who have started this term. I am sure everyone will be very supportive and do their utmost to make them feel part of the school and community. May I also add that all the children are a real credit to their parents, they have come exceptionally well turned out and prepared for a new, exciting year at school.

As predicted our enrolment continues to grow with an enrolment of **238** in 2021/22 ensuring that Ballysillan Primary will continue to thrive - so it's onwards and upwards for Ballysillan Primary!

Thank you for your continued support in helping make our school a happy, inclusive, successful school!

#### **Website, Facebook and Seesaw/Email**

Please continue to check our school website and Facebook Page for all updates and class fun photos! Communication is via Seesaw for Nursery - P6 and email for P7. It is imperative that you provide your child's teacher with an up to date email address and that you are connected to Seesaw.

#### **New Staff**

Welcome to our new staff who have arrived this term; Mr Pitt will be teaching P2/3 and Mrs Fuller will be doing a job share as the Nursery teacher along with Mr Kailanathan.

#### **Exceptional Closure**

Please note that school will be **closed** for all pupils on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September** for a Staff Development Day.

#### **Emergencies**

It is very important that we always have a contact number for parents/guardians. We also need to have the names, addresses and contact numbers of two other people in case an emergency arises. Please forward **any change** of address or phone numbers to the teacher **immediately**. If your child has a minor accident, we will inform parents at home time. It is our whole school policy however that if your child falls/bumps his/her head you are contacted by phone call immediately.

FIRST AIDER TEACHER - Mrs Chambers

## **STAFFING**

The staffing arrangements for this term are as follows: -

		<b><u>Teacher</u></b>	<b><u>Classroom Assistants</u></b>
Nursery	-	Mr Kailanathan & Mrs Fuller	Mrs Leckey, Miss Drake, Miss Coulter
P1	-	Miss McWhirter	Mrs Murray, Miss Hanna, Miss Coburn
P2	-	Miss Shiels	Mrs King
P2/3	-	Mr Pitt	Miss N Whiteside
P3/4	-	Miss Hamilton	
P5	-	Mr McGarrigle	Miss Craig, Miss McCrea
P6	-	Mrs Kelly	
P7	-	Mrs Chambers	Miss McAllister
SENCO & Learning Support	-	Mr Kailanathan	
Engage Teacher	-	Mr Edgar	
Principal	-	Mrs Davidson	
School Secretary	-	Miss Loat	

Senior Leadership Team - Mrs Davidson  
Mrs Chambers

Any concerns/issues please don't hesitate to bring the matter to the attention of the Principal/Senior Leadership.

## **SCHOOL SECRETARY**

Miss Loat's office hours are as follows -

Monday to Friday      8:45am - 2:00pm

When contacting the school outside of these hours other members of staff will be answering calls and a message will be taken. Thank you for your co-operation and patience in this matter.

## MONIES

School Dinners - Nursery - £2.50 per day (from November)  
School - £2.60 per day

Milk Money - P1 - P7 - £3.00 per month

School Funds - £3 per child /£5 per family (per month)

Alternatively, you can pay £30 for the full year's milk and £50 for the year's school funds.

\*Please note, School Funds are an invaluable contribution to the school and enables us to pay for items such as the following -

- Snacks
- Trophies
- Badges e.g. Prefect Badges, Kindness Ambassadors
- Class Rewards e.g. Stickers, Certificates
- Additional Club Resources
- Transport Subsidies

We would like to thank you for your continued support and appreciate your help to raise funds in this way.

I would be grateful if milk money and school funds could be paid before the beginning of each new month. Parents who wish their child/children to have milk this month please send in milk money by 3/09/21 at the latest. This has to be placed in a sealed envelope with name of the pupil, the amount, class and months paid. This has to be passed to the class teacher. October's Milk money will need paid by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October for that month.

## Holidays 2021-22

<b>AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> AUGUST</b>
<b>FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL 2021-2022</b>	<b>THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> &amp; FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST NOON FINISH MON 30<sup>th</sup> AUGUST - OFF TUESDAY 31<sup>st</sup> NOON FINISH</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER</b>
<b>AUTUMN HALF TERM</b>	<b>MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER - FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021 (INCL)</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS</b>	<b>THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER - TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY (INCL)</b>
<b>SPRING HALF TERM - FEB</b>	<b>MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> - STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY TUES-FRI 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021 (INCL) CHILDREN WILL BE OFF ALL WEEK</b>
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH - ST PATRICKS DAY</b>
<b>EASTER HOLIDAYS- APRIL</b>	<b>MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL- STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY 12<sup>TH</sup> - 22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL EASTER HOLIDAYS (INCL)</b>
<b>MAY BANK HOLIDAYS</b>	<b>MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE- STAFF DEVELOPMENT THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> &amp; FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> - ADDED BANK HOLS TO MARK QUEENS JUBILEE PLATINUM LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - THURSDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE</b>

## **AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

After school clubs will commence **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021**. These clubs are for P4-P7 pupils. Permission slips have been sent out already and children will be allocated places on a 'first come, first serve' basis. Pupils will be told if they have gained a space in an After School Club by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021. These clubs run from **Tuesday - Thursday from 3-3:45pm and on a Friday from 2-2:45pm**. Prompt pick-up is appreciated.

The following clubs will commence week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> **September** and the times are as follows:

**Tuesday**                      Art - Miss Hamilton. Eco - Miss McWhirter

**Wednesday**                AQE - Mrs Chambers. EGaming - Mr McGarrigle

**Thursday**                    Nessy - Miss Shiels. Choir - Mr Pitt

**Friday**                        Sports - Mr Edgar            (2pm - 2:45pm)

After school clubs are optional but children who wish to attend **must return** their permission notes. If your child is unable to attend one week please notify the school by telephone or in writing, this will ensure your child's safety and helps us with track and trace in the case of a Positive Covid case.

## **BREAKFAST CLUB**

Breakfast Club will commence on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021**. It is our intention to operate the club from 8.10am - 8.45am. Due to restrictions, we can only run Breakfast Club for 25 pupils as we did in the last term of 2021. Those who have gained a place in Breakfast Club will be notified by email /Seesaw on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021. The cost will be **£5 per week or £1 per day**. Please return all permission notes A.S.A.P.

## **After School Stars**

Thank you to all that have sought interest in our After School Stars. Notes have been sent out to those parents today (1/9/21). Please fill out and return these to the class teacher by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. After School Stars begins on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September**. The supervisor is Miss Drake and assistant is Miss Coburn. Prompt pick up is essential - see notes for more details.

## **FREE SCHOOL MEALS ENTITLEMENT**

It has come to my attention that some parents may not be aware that their children are entitled to free school meals. As this entitlement directly benefits families and the school, I would ask you to apply for free school meals) whether you intend to use this entitlement or not. Free school meal entitlement needs to be renewed every year. This year the form needs to be completed online. Please see the link below: -

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

## **UNIFORM**

School uniform can be bought in Sewing Solutions.  
Please ensure all uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name.

## **MORNING ROUTINE**

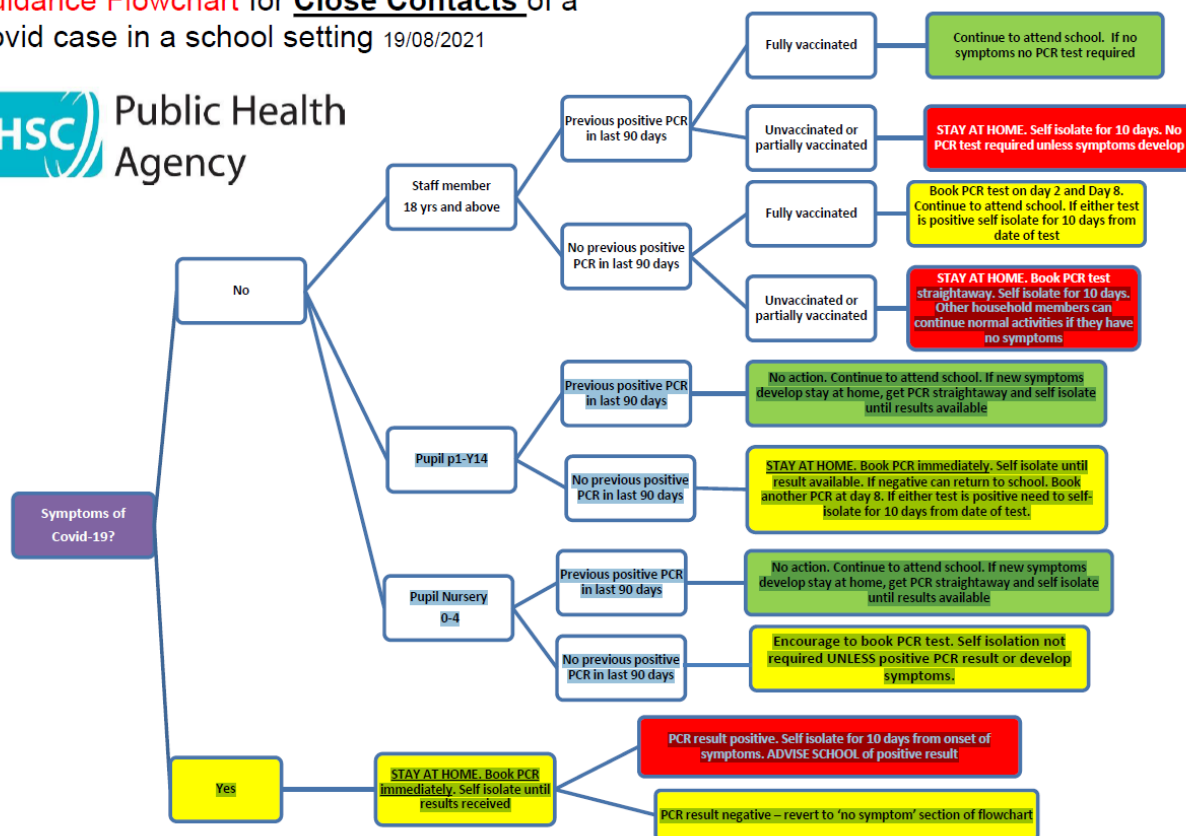
Thank you for your continued help in keeping our community safe by taking all COVID19 precautions. Our new morning and afternoon entrance and exits seem to be working well. Teachers will come to the allocated class door to welcome their pupils.

## **PICK UP**

A prompt pick up of all children (including Nursery children) is required to assist the school in several ways:

- To ensure greater safety of your child/children.
- Teacher cover can operate more successfully.
- Common courtesy between home/school.

**Guidance Flowchart for Close Contacts of a Covid case in a school setting** 19/08/2021



**Covid19**

Many thanks for your continued support in keeping our school community safe. Please continue to adhere to Covid19 regulations and PHA advice.