# **Tummery Primary School**



# Covid-19

# School Restart Plan Further Information to Parents September 2020

Date:	August 2020	Next Review Date:	October 2020
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# (This Information Pack is written to take into account the guidance from DENI "New School Day - Revised Guidance August 2020")

# Dear Parents

In preparation for the New School Year 2020-21, I wish to provide you with information on the arrangements we have made in following areas; Health and Safety Procedures, Daily Routines, Learning and the Recovery Curriculum as well as the organisation of pupil resources. The arrangements have been shared with staff and our Board of Governors.

This school guidance and reopening plan has been written in line with and after the publication of new school guidance from the Department of Education (NI) August 2020 and reflects how we as school will implement this guidance. The guidance whilst welcome still does not give absolute clarity to schools, we will implement it as best we can in order to keep all of our stakeholders (pupils, parents, STAFF and wider school community) as safe as possible. At Tummery Primary School, we understand the importance of children returning to school as soon as it is safe to do so. We know that the children have enjoyed time over recent months with their families and that it may be difficult for some children to, once again, fit in with the

new elements of school routine. As a school we will be reopening for children and taking a precautionary and safety first approach and will review how each step is impacting on our entire school community.

Unfortunately, as school systems open up across the world, there have been outbreaks in schools. Primary aged children tend to be more asymptomatic/display mild symptoms, however they carry the same viral load as an adult and are equally able to spread CV19 to other children or to adults who work in the school. It is therefore essential that you do not send your child to school if they are sick especially in light of the increasing R and infection rates.

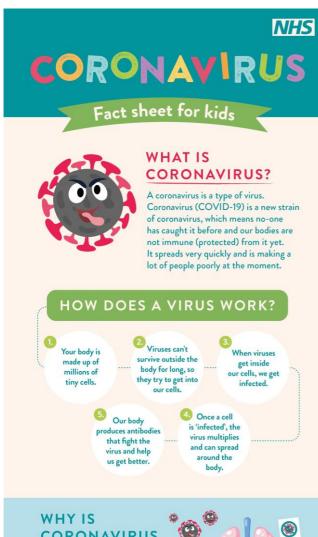
Within the Department of Education Guidance "The New School Day", the main aim is to achieve as much "face to face" teaching time as possible. It is NOT a "**Return to Business as Usual"**. This is just the start of the journey back to normality and only when CV19 levels are low enough will there be a further relaxation of the guidance.

As staff we have been considering the implementation of a 'Recovery Curriculum' to support children and their pastoral needs when they return to school. Our recovery curriculum will give the children opportunities to revise literacy and numeracy concepts, to participate in class discussions, to engage in creative lessons which encourage social interaction with children in their class.

As Principal of Tummery PS I would ask you to bear with us as we try to implement this guidance in what is a very fluid situation and in light of a rising R number, increasing infection rates and local CV19 cluster "flare ups". All we do is in an effort to protect and to keep you, your family and our school staff safe.

Many thanks,

C McCrystall



#### WHY IS CORONAVIRUS DANGEROUS?



If the virus gets into the cells in our lungs, it can stop the cells from doing their job, which is to help us breathe.

#### WHO CAN CATCH IT?



Children can catch the virus just as easily as adults, but it doesn't make them as poorly.

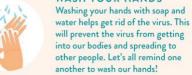
Adults who are already poorly and elderly people are the most affected, but most people can get better from it.

#### HOW CAN WE PROTECT OURSELVES?

The virus can spread very easily and we carry it and pass it onto others even if we don't feel poorly ourselves.

There are 2 important things we can do to protect ourselves, our friends and our family.





#### AVOID OTHER PEOPLE

To stop the virus spreading, we need to keep away from other people and stay at home for a time. But don't worry - life will go back to normal!

#### HOW ARE SCIENTISTS TRYING TO KEEP US SAFE?

Scientists are working hard to find a Coronavirus vaccine. A vaccine can help protect the body from being infected.



#### IT ISN'T YOUR FAULT IF SOMEONE YOU KNOW CATCHES CORONAVIRUS.

Produced by Dan Hawcutt - Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust

# Symptoms

The main symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- a high temperature this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- 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)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

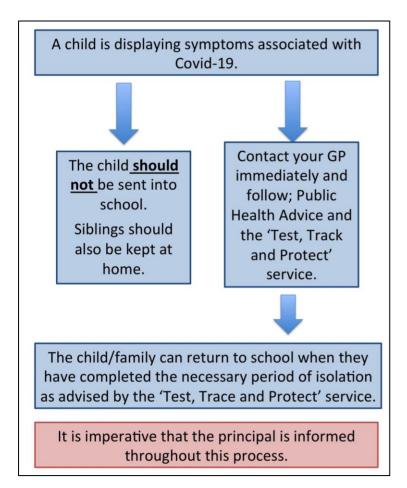


Children and young people who exhibit any symptoms associated with COVID-19 should not attend educational settings. The Department of Health has implemented a contact tracing programme called '*Test*, *Trace and Protect*' designed to control the spread of COVID-19.

All pupils are expected to follow the requirements of this programme: to self-isolate if they are identified as close contacts of cases and to obtain a test for COVID-19 if they develop symptoms. All members of their household should follow the appropriate isolation guidance as provided by the Public Health Agency.

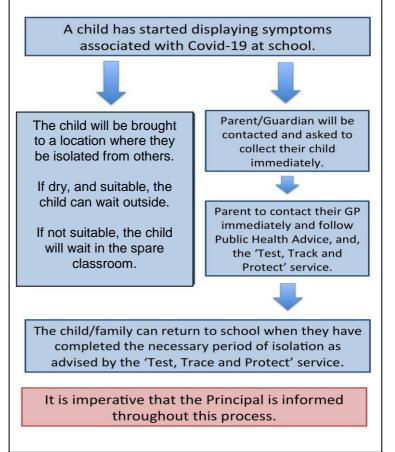
Please read the information on the following pages which will give you more information.



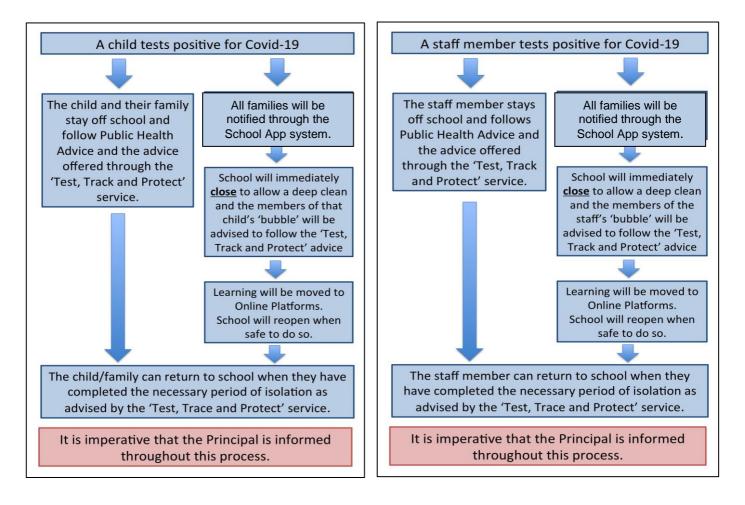


It is extremely important that the school has the parents/guardians most up to date contact details and are aware of the best number to contact first.

As you can appreciate, if your child displays symptoms, they should be collected immediately.



#### What happens if someone tests positive for Covid-19?



What to do if	Action needed	Return to school when
My child has	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL	The test comes back negative
coronavirus	Contact school daily	and they are fever free for 48
symptoms	Self-isolate	hours.
	Get a test	
	Inform school immediately about test	
	result	
My child tests	Inform the school immediately about the	They can return to school
positive for	, test result	after 10 days even if they
coronavirus	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL	have a cough or loss of taste
	Contact school daily	of smell/taste. These
	Self-isolate for at least 10 days	symptoms can last for several
		weeks once infection is gone.
		If they continue to have a high
		temperature they should stay
		at home.
Somebody in my	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL for 14 days	Stay at home for 14 days after
household has	Contact school daily	the first person in your home
coronavirus	Household member to get a test	started having symptoms.
symptoms	Inform the school immediately about the	started having symptoms.
	test result	
Somebody in my	Inform the school immediately about the	The child has completed <b>14</b>
household has tested	test result	days of self-isolation
positive with	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL	
Coronavirus	Contact school daily	
The Track and Trace	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL	The child has completed <b>14</b>
scheme has	Contact school daily	days of self-isolation
identified my child	Self-isolate for <b>14</b> days	
as a close contact of		
somebody with		
symptoms of		
confirmed		
coronavirus		
My child has	Returning from a destination where	When the quarantine period of
, travelled abroad and	guarantine is needed	14 days has been completed
has to self-isolate as	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL	
part of the	Contact school daily	
, quarantine process	Self-isolate for 14 days	
	Provide information to the school as per	
	attendance policy	
Staff or pupils in my	Inform the school	When a negative test is
child's bubble have	DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL	confirmed or the necessary
tested positive	Everyone in the bubble must self-isolate	isolation period has been
	and take a test.	completed.
		completed.

#### What has changed in school

To help maintain social distancing, our school, and classrooms, have been reorganised to utilise all available space and ensure children can return to as safe an environment as possible. The layout of the classroom will be slightly different compared to previous years. Children will have their own allocated desk, which they will use throughout the school day

# **Class Groupings**

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The class groupings for the start of this school year are:

P1 & P2	P3 / 4	P5/6/7
Mrs Gormley	Miss McNabb (Mrs Gormley)	Mr McCrystall

With Miss McNabb working similar hours to last year, pupils in Primary 1-4 will be considered the one 'bubble.'

# What Children Need

Resources for School (these will stay in School)



All children will need:pencil case with their own stationery

- water bottle (named) which will stay in school
  - small packets of tissues

If possible:

- 1 packet Antibacterial wipes
- 1 Hand Sanitiser (unfortunately due to allergies and skin conditions/irritations it would be preferable for parents to provide this)

# It is essential all items including school uniforms are clearly labelled with pupil's <u>name and class.</u>

Due to CV19 we have been advised that RESOURCES MUST NOT be shared.

All these items will <u>remain</u> in school, and children will not be allowed to borrow/share belongings.

At present, we discourage the use of a school bag and bringing home of materials will be reviewed in a few weeks.

### Home - School Communication

This year we will be continuing with our normal methods to communicate with parents/ guardians to ensure that everyone is kept up to date with school events.

## 1) <u>Seesaw</u>

Every week, we will send out an overview of the week's activities. Important notices/messages/letters will also be sent out through the app. <u>Please ensure that you have downloaded the Seesaw App to your phone and that you are linked to your child's class.</u>

### 2) <u>School Website</u>

The school website will be regularly updated with news, upcoming events and important messages.

### 3) Monthly Newsletters

Our Newsletters this year will be electronic. A link will be circulated when the newsletter is ready for circulation.

Our electronic newsletter is one example of how we aim to work towards reducing our carbon footprint and reducing the number of items that are transported from school to home and vice versa.

#### Appointments with Principal and/or Teachers

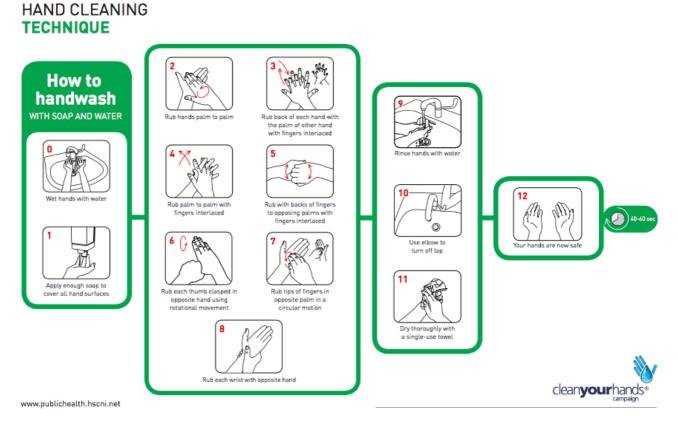
In Tummery, we pride ourselves on our relationship between staff and parents and encourage parents to contact us if there are any issues. This will continue to be the way, but, unfortunately due to social distancing restrictions, parents must make an appointment before visiting the school. This will allow staff to make arrangements to find a suitable and safe location.

You can make an appointment by ringing the school on 028 82898455. Alternatively you can contact the Principal by emailing <u>cmccrystall060@c2kni.net</u>. Please note that queries via the school's media account will not be responded to.

# The Start of A School Day

#### Leaving Home

Before leaving for school in the morning, children should wash their hands thoroughly.

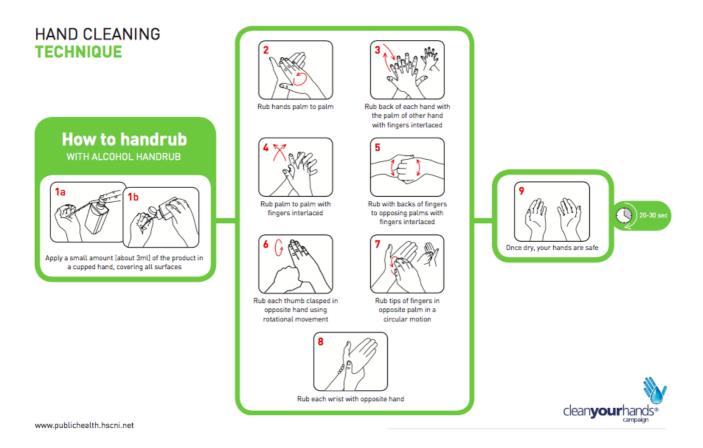


#### Arriving and Entering the school

Children entering the main school building are asked to use the back door and use the foot pump sanitiser at the door. Similarly, the children entering Mrs Gormley's mobile should enter the classroom and use the foot pump.

Parents of children in Primary 1 and 2 will be allowed to leave their children to the bottom of the ramp or steps for the first few weeks. This will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Upon entering their classroom the children should proceed to the sink, wash their hands and dispose of the paper towel in the 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' bin.



Whilst hand sanitiser will be available throughout the school, children are encouraged to have their own.

# During the School Day

Despite the changes highlighted throughout this document, our aim is to make school as 'normal' as possible.

# Toilets

The children in the mobile will use the toilets outside the classroom and the children in the main school building will use a designated cubicle for their class group.

# **Break and Lunch Times**

To limit the interaction between 'bubbles', the Department of Education recommend that schools should stagger their break and lunch times. Taking this into account, Primary 1-4 will have their break from 10.30am each morning and Primary 5-7 will have their break from 10.45am.

There will also be a staggered lunch time with P 1-4 children going for lunch at 12.15pm and P 5-7 at 12.30pm. The dinner menu can be found below. A copy of this will also be sent out via Seesaw.

# Fermanagh Primary Menu



school

Children should use a lunch box/bag which is named and which can be cleaned every day. Fruit should be peeled at home as adults will not be able to assist in school.

#### Milk

There will be no milk for the first half-term.

#### Dealing with money

We ask that the money for the previous week's dinner (£2.60 per day) and activities be submitted on the Monday of the following week in a sealed envelope which is clearly labelled with name and amount. This will minimize the contact between staff and parents with money.

For example - week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> September your child has dinner 3 times that week. On Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September there should be an envelope with £7.80 enclosed. This will not be handled until the 72 hours have passed.

# WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME TO HELP WITH THE TRANSITION BACK TO SCHOOL

- Talk positively to your child about restarting school.
- Use a calendar to start the countdown for going back to school.
- Get your child back into the school routine i.e. get to bed earlier, show them the school uniform, have a good morning routine.
- Read books with your child at home.
- Prepare their school uniform and have it in their bedroom for them to see.
- Remind them of all the fun things they do in school e.g. see friends from their class, play outside, draw, paint etc.
- Ask them to talk about three happy memories of school.
- Explain to the children there will be changes in how the school operates eg play time, lunch time etc.
- Ensure your child knows how to wash their hands thoroughly.

# PUPIL CONDUCT AND WELLBEING

The school's usual Behaviour Policy and rules for pupils are still relevant in the new school scenario, however, there are additional rules and routines pupils must now be aware of and follow. Any pupil unable to follow the school's current and amended rules will be unable to attend the school setting.

- Pupil wellbeing is paramount during their time in school.
- Children will be anxious over having missed school and their friends, ongoing news about the virus, bereavements and more.
- Part of the children's curriculum will focus on promoting good mental health, providing time to discuss their worries and concerns.
- Immediate or evolving pastoral concerns should be forward to the Designated Teacher for Safeguarding - Mrs Gormley or Deputy Designated Teacher for Safeguarding - Mr McCrystall.

# ADDITIONAL BEHAVIOURS PERTINENT TO COVID-19 AND SOCIAL DISTANCING

In line with DE's guidance, if a child's behaviour is deemed **high risk**, for example, refusing to adhere to safety measures, such as, hand washing, appropriate social distancing, remaining in their classroom or deliberate behaviours that put themselves or others at risk, such as spitting or deliberately coughing at others, the following sanctions and disciplinary procedures could be used:

- 1. Referral to Principal
- 2. Parents/Carers called to collect child from school immediately
- **3**. Immediate switch from onsite education offer to online/virtual education offer for a period decided by the Principal.
- 4. Suspension
- 5. Permanent exclusion

# CONTACT AND MIXING

- The interaction between classes will be kept to a minimum.
- Lines and markings will be ruled in the school and posters will be on display around the school visibly emphasising the need for social distancing and handwashing.
- Desks will be forward facing.
- Rules will be clearly discussed and displayed and staff will explain the new rules for movement around the classroom and maintaining appropriate social distancing. The pupils will be constantly reminded of the rules.
- Staff are required to maintain appropriate levels of social distancing from other adults in school and following the most up-to-date guidance on interacting safely with children.
- No more than one girl and one boy from each class may use the bathroom at the same time.
- Children should only move around the school when absolutely necessary.
- Maintenance officers and workmen will be admitted via the main entrance and will report to the Principal.
- Clear guidelines are in place for parents and visitors entering the school.
- Dropping off, collection, break and lunchtime are staggered to reduce contact.
- As far as possible children will only mix with their own class group.

### EQUIPMENT & UNIFORM

Initially, children will NOT need to bring a school bag or lunch box with them to school each day (as per Department of Education Guidance August 2020). <u>This will be reviewed in due course</u>.

As per previous correspondence and in accordance with school uniform policy, children will wear their usual school uniform each day.

#### The Recovery Curriculum

The 'Recovery Curriculum' will be implemented to support children and their pastoral needs when they return to school. Our recovery curriculum will give the children opportunities to revise literacy and numeracy concepts, to participate in class discussions, to engage in creative lessons which encourage social interaction with children in their class.

#### Homework

Currently school is considering how homework will operate (in line with DE guidance). This will most likely be a mixture of online (paper packs which will be sent home and supported using Seesaw) Further information will be provided on this during the first few weeks in school.

#### School Closure (Partial/Whole School)

There may be an occasion that a class, year group or whole school will be required to close due to CV 19. This will be done after consultation with PHA, CCMS and EA. If this is the case the school will endeavour to switch to the blended learning approach or the online approach. This option will be a last resort.

There may also be times when a class is asked to stay at home if we are having difficulties with teacher cover due to CV19. As a school we will keep you up to date via email/text etc. We would ask you to work in partnership with us should this be the case. In line with DE Guidance if there is a positive case within a class that classroom must be closed for a minimum of 4 days.

# OTHER HEALTH & SAFETY MATTERS

The School has undertaken Risk Assessments and put together routines and procedures which we believe will provide effective protection. In addition, some advice from the Public Health Agency is set out below:

1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring those who have coronavirus (COVID-19 symptoms) or who have someone in their household who does DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL for a period of no less than 14 days.

2. Washing hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap or using alcohol hand sanitiser will be an integral part of the everyday routine.

3. Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting "Catch It, Bin It, Kill It" approach.

4. Cleaning frequently touched surfaces using standard products such as detergents and bleach.

5. Minimising contact and mixing bubbles by altering the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (staggered break/lunch times).

I must emphasise the importance to parents in following the guidance in point 1 and ask that you are vigilant in keeping your child at home if he/she feels unwell. It is crucial that you inform the school in the event of any person in your household being diagnosed with Coronavirus.

The arrangements outlined in this document may indeed change considerably over time.

# CORONAVIRUS HOME/SCHOOL AGREEMENT:

# As a school we will try to do our best to:

- Provide an environment which has been risk assessed in response to the COVID-19 infection.
- Adhere to the social distancing rules as set out by the government as much as we reasonably can.
- Provide a curriculum that meets the needs of your child's well-being, mental health and academic needs.
- Contact parents/carers if your child displays symptoms of COVID-19.
- Inform you if staff or children in your child's 'bubble' show symptoms of COVID-19 as this will mean you will all need to self-isolate for at least 14 days or until the test comes back negative.
- Continue our clear and consistent approach to rewards and sanctions for children as set out in the school Behaviour Policy.
- Communicate between home and school through text messages, email and the school app.

# Parents we ask you to adhere to the following:

- Ensure that the school has updated contact information.
- If my child, or anyone in my household, shows symptoms of COVID-19, I will not send my child to school and we will follow PHA guidance with regards to isolation and testing.

- I will check my child's temperature, following appropriate guidance, each morning before school and if it is raised I will not send them to school.
- If my child displays symptoms of COVID-19 at school, I understand they will be removed from the class, placed in supervised isolation and I will be contact to collect them as soon as possible.
- When dropping my child off or picking my child up at the school, I will adhere to social distancing and remain outside the school gate.
- I will not be allowed to enter the school building without a pre-arranged appointment made through the school office.
- Provide my child with the following when they are attending school; a pencil case, a water bottle, a packet of tissues, break / lunch (if required) and a coat, all clearly named. (School bags should not be brought into school at this time)
- Pupils will have a designated, individual workspace and will only use personal equipment. If it is necessary for a staff member to be in proximal distance of your child, they may take necessary safety precautions with mask/visor/sanitation.
- Agree that my child will be expected to sanitise / wash their hands on arrival, before leaving and at several intervals throughout the school day.

# Children we ask you to: (parents we ask you to discuss these rules with your children)

- Keep a safe distance from others.
- Tell an adult if you feel unwell.
- Only use the equipment provided to you by school and no other.
- Follow good respiratory hygiene: coughing and sneezing into elbow or tissue (catch itbin it-kill it).
- Follow good hand hygiene washing hands using soap and water for 20 seconds/ hand sanitizer.
- Behave well at all times to maintain the safety of myself and others.

