



St Joseph's Primary School

Carnacaville

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Principal: Mr Christopher McCann Bsc(Hons), PGCE, PQH(NI)

Tuesday 11th August 2020

Dear Parents/ Guardians

As the new term approaches our plan for the Induction Week beginning Monday 24th August remains in place as communicated with you in the 3rd of July letter. Please refer to this letter for more detail on the plan for that week. It is available on the school website. You will have received a text message today stating the two days your child will attend school that week. There will be no bus service for the Induction Week.

The Minister of Education set out some guidelines on 6th August and we await more detailed information from his department later this week. A final decision on a plan for week beginning Tuesday 1st September will be made after the Minister's guidance is received, but I envisage a full return to school from that week onward, unless guidance alters or the current status of the pandemic changes. Please note, school will be closed 31st August Bank Holiday Monday.

In preparation for your child returning to school after lockdown may I suggest that you take time to prepare your child for some changes to the normal school day.

Below is a list of points you may wish to consider.

- Talk to your child, create an excitement about returning to school. Emphasise the positive aspects of seeing their friends and teacher and learning in a new classroom.
- Explain that some school routines may be different. E.g. staggered lunches and playtimes, regular hand washing, parents will leave and collect pupils at the gate (except Reception and Primary One) and won't be accompanying them to classrooms at the start of the school year. Please explain that this is for everyone's safety.
- Discuss the now familiar habit of seeing people wearing a mask or visor. There will be occasions in school where adults may be wearing some level of PPE.
- Reassure your child and address any doubts and anxieties they may have.

All adults in school will be available to help and support the children in whatever way they can, so that they can settle easily and happily into school life again adopting and accepting our new norms.

Practical Requirements: -

- Parents will be asked to provide pencils, crayons or colouring pencils, sharpener, ruler etc. in a labelled clear wallet/folder on day one of their induction and this will remain in school for the pupil's sole use.
- Discuss and practice good hygiene habits. i.e. toileting and washing hands, sneezing, blowing nose, using a tissue or sneezing and coughing into the elbow.
- Where possible and practicable, parents are asked to provide children with a packet of tissues to keep in school.
- Discuss, explain and practice the importance of giving everyone their own personal space and reasons for non-contact play at present.
- When on school premises all adults are instructed to adhere to all current Government and PHA guidance on social distancing, hand sanitising and wearing of masks.
- If your child is feeling unwell or showing any symptoms associated with Covid-19, please do not send your child to school, and contact your GP.

Emphasise that just because we may have to do some things **differently**, does not mean it will be **difficult**.

All this information will be sensitively reinforced on your child's return to school, but what you do in advance will also support what we all desire; a much longed for return to school where everyone, pupils and adults are safe and happy. These basic measures really do matter so that everyone in our school community stays protected from Covid-19.

It remains important that we all work together in order to mitigate the risks involved as we steer our way through these very strange times.

Kind regards,

Christopher McCann
Principal