**ARTIGARVAN PRIMARY SCHOOL and**

 **COMMUNITY NURSERY**

September 2021

Dear Parent,

We are really looking forward to seeing everyone back at school again next Wednesday. I hope you had a lovely summer break with your family.

We say goodbye to Sandra today as she retires from the post of clerical officer. She will be very much missed by everyone in our school after 18 years in our office. Sandra will be in school on Wednesday 8th September for a special outdoor farewell assembly with the pupils.

Our new clerical officer is Joanne Hamilton. Governors are pleased to be able to re-deploy Joanne within the school and we wish her well in her new post.

This letter is to inform you of our arrangements for the new school year. We received guidance from the Department of Education and it states that schools are no longer required to operate bubbles BUT we feel it is important to continue as we operated last term WITH bubbles. The class bubbles will operate until we review this approach again in October.

**Arriving and Departing School**

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| P1/2 Mrs Kane’s ClassP5/6 Mrs McClelland’s ClassP6/7 Mrs Doherty/Mrs Patterson’s Class | All use MAIN school door |
| P2/3 Miss Hicks/Mrs Pollock’s ClassP3/4 Mr Campbell’s Class | All use TOP door (over to the right of the school)  |

Children can arrive at school between 8.45 and 9.05am. If they arrive before this time they can line up and wait outside at the designated class spot.

Children in P1 are aware of their start and finishing times from Mrs Kane’s Induction Pack. Children will leave school at 2.00 p.m. P2 children will leave at 2.00 p.m. plus P3 on Monday and Friday. P4 – P7 will leave school at 2.55 p.m.

Parents are reminded not to congregate at the school gate. They must use the carpark across the road and wear a mask when leaving children to and from the pedestrian gate.

**Healthy Breaks, Dinners/Lunches, Milk**

Children should bring a healthy snack to school each day – a piece of fruit or vegetable and their own bottle of water.

**Dinners**

The cost of a school dinner is £2.60. Please send dinner money to school with your child on a Monday for the week, clearly named including the days he/she is taking school dinners. For Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of next week a text will be sent to inform you of what will be served in school that day.

The dinner menu is available on our school website on the parent section.

Children will go to the dining hall for their school dinner in their class bubble this year. Two classes only will be in the hall socially distanced to have their lunch/dinner.

**Please note –** even your child prefers to take a packed lunch, we would ask you to apply for Free School Meals immediately as additional money is put into our school budget if you simply register as eligible.

**Milk**

We will gauge the demand for milk for the first week but your child will receive a note stating the cost that you must complete if they want to take milk each break time and return with the correct money.

**School Uniform**

Please ensure your child wears the proper school uniform each day. Your child’s teacher will let you know when their class P.E day is and they can wear a tracksuit/P.E. clothes on that specified day. School bags and lunch bags can be brought as normal.

**Good Hygiene Practice**

We will continue to practice good hygiene, asking children to wash their hands as they arrive at school and throughout the day.

We would appreciate if you could send in boxes of tissues or liquid soap for use in your child’s classroom.

**Visitors and Parents in School**

An appointment must be made with the school secretary if you want to see a member of staff. Face coverings should be worn and hands sanitised on entry. General enquiries can be made by phoning the school anytime.

**Breakfast Club and After School Club**

We hope to start our breakfast club and after school club in the coming weeks. More details to follow in the next few weeks.

**Bus Room**

Children in P1 and P2 (P3 Monday and Friday) who are waiting for a bus at 3 p.m. can stay in our bus room for the hour. They **must** bring a colouring in book and pencils for that hour.

**Medical Conditions/Contact Details**

Please inform the school if your child has any medical conditions that we need to be aware of. You will receive a SIMS form with your current details – please amend, sign and return as soon as possible.

**Instrument Tuition**

Mr Wright will begin instrument tuition on Thursday 2nd September. Please ensure your child brings their instrument and practises at home each week.

We will continue to review the current situation and arrangements regularly and keep you informed as much as possible.

Our aim for our new school year is to have a safe, happy learning environment. We thank you in advance for your support and understanding as we begin term one.

We hope your child will have an enjoyable and fulfilling academic year.

Kind regards

Judith Harper

Principal