

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I write this final update at the end of our preparation week before the start of school. All of the staff here are really looking forward to seeing families and children back again and hearing the buzz of children around the school. As Principal, I want to pay tribute to the hard work that the staff team have put in over the past weeks as they've worked to make school as safe and welcoming as it can be. I also want to say a huge thank you to you as parents and carers who have done so much to support staff and children throughout lockdown and on our home learning journey.

We know that alongside the excitement about school restarting, many parents, children and staff will also experience anxiety about coming back. We remain in the midst of a global pandemic and we all must remain vigilant to the dangers posed by Covid-19. We hope that you'll see the steps that we have taken to keep everyone as safe as we can.

As we wrestle with these changes and with being forced to adapt a lot of what we normally do in school, I would ask parents for their continued patience and their support. There may well be things that we have missed in our preparations; there may well be changes that cause inconvenience. Please be assured that each one of us is doing our best to adjust to these new ways of life. As a school we will do our best to be transparent with you and to give you as much information as we can. Likewise, if there is anything we can do help you, or if there's something you feel we should know or that you'd like to discuss with us, please do get in touch.

Having had school 'on hold' for the last 5 months, we look forward to starting again this week and to whatever the term ahead may bring.

	Notes
Staying safe	<p>Children within a class will be treated as a 'protective bubble'. Whilst children will not be required to strictly socially distance from other children in the same bubble, we will be encouraging them to adopt some distancing in a way that is appropriate for their age and stage. We have provided children with individual resources so as to cut down on sharing, have added extra time for handwashing and have put sanitation stations in each classroom. We have restructured the school day so that, as much as possible, the protective class bubbles are not mixing with other class bubbles.</p> <p>Adults will be socially distancing with each other and with the children in the protective bubble where possible. Obviously, this will look very different for adults working with P7 children compared to those working with our youngest children.</p>
Drop Off	See Update 2 for specific guidance on drop off locations (on school website). A one-way system will be in operation on the school grounds, which will be strictly closed to traffic. Cones and signs will show you where to go and staff will be at key points around the school to provide guidance and support.
Registration	<p>Registration will continue to be taken each day. If your child is unable to attend school for whatever reason, please contact the office by phone or email.</p> <p>Absence notes can be sent in through SeeSaw. Please note, Facebook Messenger cannot be used to communicate information about specific children.</p>
Break time	Please continue to send in a healthy snack, which will be eaten in the classroom. Water bottles/ drinks should not be sent into school. We have purchased individual jugs and cups to provide water for classes and pupils – which will be sterilised on a daily basis.
Play time	As each class is treated as a protective bubble, each class will have a consistent area outside to play in each day. This will be the same area for break and lunch.

Curriculum	<p>Our primary concern in the first weeks of the year will be to settle and reintegrate the children back into school. We know that some children will find this challenging and we want to help them settle into the new routines at West Winds.</p> <p>We expect to deliver more of our curriculum outside this year and use all of the fantastic outdoor resources that we have.</p> <p>We know every child has had a different experience of lockdown and home learning; staff will be tailoring the learning that takes place in school to reflect this.</p>
Lunches	<p>Paid school meals will not be available until Monday 5th October. This is to allow time for us to implement a new school meals regime. Free school meals will be available from 1st September. Lunches will be eaten in classrooms. Meals from the school kitchen will be a packed lunch, which will be delivered to the classroom.</p>
Home time	<p>See Update 2 for specific times and locations for collecting children at the end of the school day.</p>
Gatherings	<p>We will constantly monitor the public health guidance, keeping track of any changes. At this stage, sadly, we expect not to be holding large scale social events in the Autumn Term.</p>
Extra-curricular	<p>For the Autumn term initially, we will not be offering any after-school activities. This is to reduce the number of visitors to the school site and to prevent protective class bubbles mixing with each other.</p>
Covid 19 Symptoms	<p>Update 3 – Please do not send your children to school if they are displaying symptoms consistent with Covid19. This is to keep everyone as safe as possible in our community.</p> <p>Please see flowchart below for steps taken if symptoms develop in child whilst at school.</p>

Mr. N. Manogue
Principal

Useful contact details

West Winds Primary School

School Office: 028 9181 5212

info@westwindsps.newtownards.ni.sch.uk

www.westwindsprimary.co.uk

Public Health Agency

0300 555 0114

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/>

NI Executive Coronavirus Guidance

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/coronavirus-covid-19>

Covid-19 – Children displaying symptoms whilst at home

Children should not attend school if they have any of the following symptoms.

Children should not attend school if anyone in their household has any of the following symptoms.

- a high temperature – this means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature); OR
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual); OR
- a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste.

If they, or anyone in your household has these symptoms, you should contact the NI Test and Trace service, who will provide advice re isolation and access to testing.

Public Health Agency: 0300 555 0114

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/>

Please inform school if a child or a member of your household is isolating due to Covid-19 symptoms.

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Should a child develop symptoms whilst at school, the following steps will be taken (Department of Education Guidance, Aug 10th 2020).

