



Learning together,
building for the future

Kirkistown Primary School
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24 February 2021

PHASED RETURN TO SCHOOL

Dear Parent / Carer,

Following the announcement made by the N.I Executive on 18 February 2021, schools have today received written instruction from the Department of Education (N.I).

Pupils in Reception Class, P1, P2 & P3

From **Monday 08 March until Friday 19 March**, pupils in these year groups will return to full-time face-to-face teaching. As before, we will employ staggered arrival and departure times. Children without siblings enrolled at Kirkistown Primary School should arrive at 8:45am while families should arrive at 9am. School will operate its normal day with the same staggered departure times that were in place prior to Christmas. It is anticipated that school meals services will resume for children attending school.

From **Monday 22 March until Friday 26 March**, pupils in these year groups will then return to remote learning. School will close for Easter as planned on Friday 26 March with children due to return on Monday 12 April. The Minister for Education has explained the return to remote learning for this final week of term in the following way,

“In recognition that any further increase in pupil attendance before mid-April has the potential to impact on the trajectory of the pandemic, the Executive have decided that to enable the return of qualification years, remote learning will resume for pre-school/nursery and pupils in P1-3 for the week beginning 22 March until the planned start of the Easter holidays for individual schools.”

Please note that children should not bring any unnecessary items from home into school.

Pupils in P4 – P7

The Minister for Education’s objective remains to have a full return of all pupils to face to face teaching in school as soon as practicably possible after the Easter break but it is recognised that this has to be balanced against the public health position.

While we therefore hope to have children in P4 – P7 classes re-joining us from Monday 12 April, this is yet to be confirmed. I will look to communicate with families regarding this in as timely a fashion as possible. Please bear in mind that announcements are often made to the press several days before schools are notified in writing.

Keyworker families and children deemed to be vulnerable

School will remain open for the children of Keyworkers up to and including Friday 26 March. Families already utilising this service need do nothing. Any other families seeking places for children who fall into this category should contact the Principal via email: rgraham577@c2ken.net

School will close for all children for the Easter break on Friday 26 March at 2pm. It is then hoped that all year groups will return to school in their existing class bubbles from Monday 12 April but this is yet to be confirmed.

Thank you

Once more I would like to take the opportunity to thank our school community for their continued patience and support at this time. We are very keen to have your children back at school, with their friends, as soon as possible. In these most unique circumstances, we have each had a timely reminder of the value of community, of friendship, of the privilege of being able to come together. It is my hope that this is a lesson not quickly forgotten.

A summary of the arrangements in table form has been included on the next page for ease of reference.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Graham', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Principal

rgraham577@c2ken.net

SUMMARY OF ARRANGEMENTS

Year Group	Dates	School Hours	Notes
Reception – P3	Monday 08 March – Friday 19 March	Normal School Hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children without siblings at KPS arrive at 08:45am • Families arrive at 9am • It is expected that school meals will be available • Staggered collection times as per before Christmas • Social distancing must be observed at the school gate. • School uniform should be worn- P.E kit should be worn on P.E days
	Monday 22 March – Friday 26 March	Remote Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Return to remote learning for all pupils excepting those of Keyworker families and those deemed vulnerable. • Families are required to submit completed work in order to gain attendance marks for their child. • Staff will remain available for advice and support (by email / Seesaw) during working hours. Please bear in mind that response times from staff may vary as they may be involved in the provision of supervised learning for keyworker children and those deemed vulnerable.
	Monday 29 March – Friday 09 April	Easter holidays	Easter Holidays
P4 – P7	Monday 08 March – Friday 26 March	Remote Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote learning for all pupils excepting those of Keyworker families and those deemed vulnerable. • Families are required to submit completed work in order to gain attendance marks for their child. • Staff will remain available for advice and support (by email / Google Classroom) during working hours. • Please bear in mind that response times from staff may vary as they may be involved in the provision of supervised learning for keyworker children and those deemed vulnerable.
	Monday 29 March – Friday 09 April	Easter holidays	Easter Holidays
Keyworker children and those deemed vulnerable	Monday 08 March – Friday 26 March	Supervised learning in school as per the current arrangement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families already utilising this service need do nothing. • Any other families seeking places for children who fall into this category should contact the Principal via email: rgraham577@c2ken.net
	Monday 29 March – Friday 09 April	Easter holidays	Easter Holidays