



20 Carolan Road
Belfast
BT73HE
Telephone 02890492177
Email info@forge.belfast.ni.sch.uk
www.forgeips.co.uk

Principal Mr N Watson

18 March 2021

Full Return to School March 2021

We are pleased to be welcoming **all** pupils back to school from Monday 22 March in line with NI Executive and DE directives. Please read the information below carefully.

- All children from **P1 – P7** will return to school on Monday 22 March and will continue to attend until Friday 26 March at which point we break for the Easter holiday and return to school on Monday the 12 April.
- School meals will be available for children in school on the same basis as during the Autumn Term with bookings and payments for non-free school meals made via the Parentmail App.
- Club4up are not planning to re-open until 12th April after the Easter break.
- There will be no breakfast club until DE lift the ongoing 'pause' on breakfast clubs as stipulated in the most recent Department of Education directive.

Strict risk reduction measures remain in place. While the vaccination programme is well underway and the number of cases has reduced in recent weeks, we have seen this reverse before and Covid -19 remains a very real risk. We are still aware of new cases in local schools and we all have a part to play in keeping the risk as low as possible.

- Adult access to school premises is to be kept to a minimum.
- Parents are not permitted beyond the green gates in the car park, must not linger on school grounds, must maintain social distance when dropping off and collecting children.
- Parents should wear a face covering on school grounds unless unable to for medical reasons.
- Parents must not attempt call into the office casually for any reason, queries should be made by telephone or email.
- For pick up and drop off to school children should be accompanied by **only one adult carer** to reduce the volume of people in the vicinity.

Reminder of Routines and Procedures 2021

1. Drop off in the mornings:

P1 Pupils: Parents can drop off pupils at the classroom door between 0845 and 0915 and should access and exit the area via the SIDE GATE.

P 2- 7 Pupils will be met by school staff in the school playground at the front of the school. Pupils should access the playground through the FRONT GATE.

2. Pick up in the afternoon

P1 Pupils Pick up time 1.40pm from the side gate

P2 pupils Pick up time 1.50pm from the front gate (right hand gate)

P3 pupils Pick up time 2.00pm from the front gate (left hand gate)

P4 pupils Pick up time 2.30pm from the front gate (left hand gate)

P5 pupils Pick up time 2.40pm from the front gate (left hand gate)

P6 pupils Pick up time 2.50pm from the front gate (left hand gate)

P7 pupils Pick up time 3.00pm from the front gate (left hand gate)

All other routines and procedures will be in keeping with how we were operating in the Autumn Term. If you need a reminder of those procedures, you can check the Covid-19 section of the school website.

We are aware that the 2020 – 2021 period has disrupted all of our lives and that includes our children. Many children will be looking forward to returning to school but there will also be anxieties and for some children the prospect may seem overwhelming.

We are distributing the short Return to School/Wellbeing survey (link below) to help give us an idea of how children feel about returning to school and help us better support them with their concerns.

If your child would like to complete it, they can do so with your help or independently (age and ability allowing) and we will do our best to take their views on board as we look towards our first week with school running at full capacity for some time. We appreciate that younger pupils have already broken the ice and have been back to school for over a week now – however, it is still early days and opinions are still welcome.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-yeCOETeDkaBkAVAK4mNgFaql0rTdelBm6E-ZTd9D5JURTEwR0NMRzBTVFdYS01PT1c2QkhGOUNHNy4u>

We look forward to seeing all of our pupils back in school on Monday.

Yours Sincerely,

Neville Watson

Principal