

Edendork Primary School
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COMMENCEMENT OF 2021/22 SCHOOL YEAR

Dear Parents,

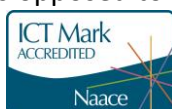
I hope you and your families have kept safe and well and had enjoyable Summer holidays. I look forward to seeing the children next week as they commence the new school year and hopefully 2021/22 will not be as disruptive as the previous two academic years.

Revised DE Guidance for schools have been issued (18/8/21). Although we “are no longer required to operate a system of formal protective bubbles”, the guidelines highlight a need for us to support effective contact tracing and “maintain a cautious and measured approach that still seeks to maximise the time where pupils are within a consistent group of pupils.” Individual circumstances of each school are to be taken into account and measures put in place to ensure children can access their education in a safe environment.

To this end, and bearing in mind the increasing numbers of positive Covid 19 cases in the locality, it is intended that Edendork P.S. will operate similar to the third term of the 2020/21 academic year.

To ensure the safe return of ALL children and staff to Edendork P.S. for 2021/22 school year, the following will be implemented from the beginning of the first term:

- **A child should not come to school if he/she or any member of their family are displaying symptoms of COVID 19.** “The Public Health Agency is currently preparing guidance to ensure that the new requirements for school aged children to self-isolate until they have received a negative PCR test apply equally to all pupils in each year group.”
- To minimise items being carried to and from school, school bags **should not** be brought to school.
- A ‘blended’ online approach will continue to be taken to all homework. Assigned homework tasks will be communicated by the teacher/classroom assistant via Class Dojo. Consequently, work completed at home and messages from the parent to the teacher/classroom assistant should be shared with the school through Dojo.
- Pupils should not bring items, such as toys, from home into school. A lunch box/bag which is named and which can be cleaned every day, a water bottle clearly named which can be cleaned every day and a coat are permitted. Children should be wearing shoes which they can independently fasten/secure. We would recommend trainers which are fastened by velcro as opposed to laces for children who are unable to tie their own shoe laces.



- Tissues, soap, disposable wipes/paper towels and hand sanitisers will continue to be provided in school throughout the school day. It is recommended that children have in their possession clean tissues, a face mask (if travelling by bus) and any other precautions you feel is necessary for his/her health and well being. Children from P.3 to P.7 should also bring a pencil case to school on their first day. This should contain what each child personally prefers to help with their work in school eg. pencil, sharpener, eraser, colouring pens etc. This will remain in the school for only your child's use as there will be no sharing of these resources.
- **Medication** e.g. inhalers should be sent into school with your child on his/her first day back. **These will be kept in school from this date.**
- A school dinner, prepared in the school canteen can be purchased at £2.60 per day. To reduce the handling of cash, we would advocate you use Paypal (friends & family) using the link edendorkpay@aol.com. Any cash sent into school should be in a sealed envelope (one per family) and should be the exact amount as no change will be given.
- Edendork P.S. will be opened from 8:15 a.m. daily for Breakfast Club only costing £1 per child per day (Cereal, toast & juice provided). This **must be prebooked** by contacting the school secretary or prepaid directly to Sadie. To minimise handling of cash, Breakfast Club should be paid using notes only £5 (weekly)// £20 (monthly) or alternatively through Paypal using the link edendorkpay@aol.com
- Children who are not attending Breakfast Club should go directly to their designated classroom from 8:30 a.m. Children who are in mobile classrooms do not enter the school building through the front door but go directly to their mobile classroom across the car park. As this is the only area available to the staff this year for parking their cars, gates will be closed at 8:30 a.m. **It is of paramount importance for all children's safety that no child accesses the school car park to go to their classroom before 8:30 a.m. The school day commences at 9:00 a.m.**
- Unless by appointment, only staff and pupils will be on the school premises during the school day.
- After schools commences on Monday 6th September from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. for children in P.2 and P.3. The cost of this care is £3 per child per day and required places must be prebooked via the school secretary. It is intended that after schools care will commence in January 2022 for children in P.1.
- Throughout the school day, we will continue to maximise ventilation of the school building and of all classrooms. Please ensure your child/children wear their full uniform to school including their school jumpers (remember all items of clothing should be labelled with your child's name). Children should be encouraged, where possible, to wear a clean fresh uniform each day. We would emphasise that all children should change out of their uniform as soon as they get home.
- There will be no changing for P.E. We strongly advise that all children wear trainers so they can access physical activities and P.E. every day.
- **Every child is required to wash his/her hands prior to leaving home, as soon as he/she enters their classroom, periodically during the school day and before he/she leaves school in the evening.** Please encourage your child to observe this routine particularly with rising cases of Covid in the area and in light of the recent self isolation guidelines.
- **Children who are starting P.1** and their parents have been issued with a date and time this week via Class Dojo whereby they will be invited to meet individually with their class teacher(s) and visit the school on Tuesday 31st August. From Wednesday 1st September, all P.1 children will start school and will finish at 1:45 p.m.
- **P.7 children** will commence this school term on Tuesday 31st August with home time being 2 p.m.



In an effort to ensure the continued safety of our children, parents, staff and wider community, it is essential for us to stagger home times to avoid the congestion of parents at the school gates and of children waiting to be collected. This term commences with the following dismissal times:

1:45 p.m.	P.1 and older P.2 & P.3 siblings
2 p.m.	P.2 & P.3
2:45 p.m.	P.4 & P.5 and older P.6 & P.7 siblings & Ace Coaches
3:00 p.m.	P.6 & P.7
3:00 p.m.	P.7 & Translink Service Bus

DENI strongly recommend (18/8/21) that all primary aged pupils, regardless of age, should wear a face covering on both public transport and school transport services.

To ensure continued health and safety, we would urge you to **collect your children punctually** at the designated times. This will ensure there is no congestion or gathering of people at the front door/school gates. Children collected at the agreed designated times will also enable the cleaning of all areas of the school used by children and staff thus allowing continued safe usage of the school including resources/equipment for the following day.

In anticipation of your continued support – thank you.

Yours Sincerely

A. Mc Alinden

Principal

