



CIPS Weekly Bulletin

Covid Update



The unknown with this new variant has stopped us in our tracks, for now. Schools are experiencing high numbers of Covid related sicknesses and we have not escaped this. Like many schools, we have struggled to get cover for both teaching and non-teaching staff as we see numbers continue to remain high within the community. You may have seen on the news that some schools have had to reduce school days and have certain year groups working from home. This will be avoided at all cost but nobody can predict whether or not staff shortages would dictate us having to reserve this as an option.

As it stands now, we have carried out our second review and year group bubbles remain in place as do a number of the protocols (see below):

Old Protocol	New Protocol	Action by Parents
Children will be asked to wash their hands throughout the school day.	THIS PROTOCOL REMAINS IN PLACE	Ensure that your children know how to properly wash their hands for at least twenty seconds with soap and tepid/lukewarm water.
Children should be discouraged from touching their eyes, face, nose and mouth. They should be shown how to cough or sneeze into their elbow if they don't have a tissue.	THIS PROTOCOL REMAINS IN PLACE	In advance of the school reopening you should also discuss, explain and promote good respiratory hygiene to encourage your children to follow the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach.
Children will be given a squirt of hand sanitiser	THIS PROTOCOL REMAINS IN PLACE	Parents asked to support this to ensure that virus transmission kept to a minimum.
Drinking fountains are turned off	THIS PROTOCOL REMAINS IN PLACE	A water bottle (clearly marked with your child's name) can be brought in to school and must be sanitised daily.
All year groups are now back into the dinner hall, across four sittings. Lunches are also in the dinner hall. This is being reviewed on a regular basis.	We are looking at ways to have lunches in the assembly hall or classrooms but cannot implement this until staffing levels return to normal and we can move to Key Stage bubbles.	Parents should ensure that they indicate the days that their children will be having a school dinner, on the School Money App
School operates a cashless system through School Money.	THIS PROTOCOL REMAINS IN PLACE	Parents should ensure that they have registered for School Money as Cliftonville IPS now operates cashless transactions and cannot take money for payments of dinners, snack etc.....

<p>A coat must be brought to school each day</p>	<p>THIS PROTOCOL REMAINS IN PLACE</p>	<p>Pupils will still be encouraged to do as much learning outside as possible. Windows in classrooms remain open for ventilation. Please ensure that they wear a coat as the days are now much cooler.</p>
<p>PE Kits - <u>all</u> children will wear PE KIT to school, on their designated PE Days, until further notice.</p>	<p>THIS PROTOCOL REMAINS IN PLACE</p>	<p>Please ensure that your child(ren) wear their PE kits to school on the days directed by their class teacher.</p>
<p>Parents must not routinely enter the school building to use the hatch at the office.</p>	<p>THIS PROTOCOL REMAINS IN PLACE</p>	<p>We would ask parents to avoid entering the school building unless totally unavoidable and only if they are wearing a mask.</p>
<p>Parents wishing to meet with teachers can now arrange this through sending a note to teacher or phoning the school office. <u>Seesaw will be used for information only.</u></p>	<p>THIS PROTOCOL REMAINS IN PLACE</p>	
<p>Breakfast Club operated as normal, albeit within year group bubbles. 2-3 Club and other clubs have not started yet but will be reviewed again in November. Phased assemblies, with limited year groups, will begin after half term for P4-7 children with a view to extending this to P1-3 children from January.</p>	<p>A new assembly rota will be drawn up for P4-7 children and extended to Primary Three.</p> <p>We will wait until the new year to decide if and when we can operate 2-3 Club. This is dependent on us being able to operate Key Stage bubbles and having an available room.</p> <p>We are also looking at creative ways to reintroduce other after-school clubs.</p>	
<p>P1-4 children will be collected from the front playground at designated points. All parents should wear face masks when collecting their children to help prevent viral transmission. In addition, we ask that only one parent per family is doing pick-up, to avoid congestion.</p>	<p>THIS PROTOCOL REMAINS IN PLACE</p>	
<p>P5-7 children will be dismissed by their teacher, off school grounds and parents should arrange to meet them at a convenient point along the Cliftonville Road. Children will be instructed to return to school if you have not instructed them to walk home in the event that you are not at the</p>	<p>THIS PROTOCOL REMAINS IN PLACE</p>	

place where you have agreed to meet them.		
Bubbles will continue to operate within school. However, bubbles will now be for a year group, rather than a class, which will allow all children within that year group to socialise. A review of bubbles will take place in six weeks.	This protocol remains in place. A further review of this will take place in January.	

Morning Drop-off



Parents are reminded that children **will not be** supervised until the doors open at 8.45am. Until staff arrive at the entrance point, we ask that all parents ensure that they are waiting with their child(ren) even if the gates at the front playground are open. Parents are also reminded to wear masks when entering school grounds.



International Award Success!

Last Friday, all of our children had a wonderful day celebrating our school becoming an International School. The ice-cream was delicious and everyone enjoyed the activities. A big thank you to Mrs Lynch for organising the day.

Meals Menu – Monday 13th December (Week 3)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Savoury Mince & Onion Fresh Baton Carrots Broccoli Florets Mashed Potato	Breaded Cod Fish Fingers Baked Beans Sweetcorn & Peas Mashed Potatoes	Roast Beef Stuffing & Gravy Fresh Savoy Cabbage Oven Roast & Mashed Potatoes	Breast of Chicken Curry Boiled Rice Naan Bread Sweetcorn Tossed Salad	Hotdog, Sauté Onions Peas Selection of Salads Baby Boiled Potatoes Chips
Chocolate & Orange Sponge & Custard	Swiss Roll Custard	Popcorn Cookies Water Melon	Yoghurts Pineapples	Ice Cream & Fresh Fruit Salad



Confirmation and First Communion Dates

Confirmation will take place on
Wednesday 2nd February 2022 at 11:00am
at Sacred Heart Church

First Communion –
21st May 2022 at 11:00am
at Sacred Heart Church



Done and Dusted!

As you know, some of our Primary Seven children sat their last AQE test, last Saturday. For some of them, this was their fourth Saturday in a row! No matter what the outcome of these tests will be, they should know that we are extremely proud of their hard work and resilience. Well done each and every one of you. You can now relax and look forward to Christmas!

Approaching Other Parents and Children

There have been a couple of incidents over the past weeks where parents approached other parents about something that had allegedly happened in school, between their children. This may be a normal reaction and if done respectfully, can often have a positive outcome. However, it can often make the situation worse. I would urge all parents not to approach another parent about an alleged incident, that has happened in school, between their children. Please speak to the class teacher in the first instance or approach the school office. This approach will ensure that the incident can be resolved quickly, fairly and amicably without running the risk of your approach not being received well or the approach becoming heated and counterproductive.



Holiday Dates

Please take note of the festive holidays and also note that the last day of school, Wednesday 22nd December is a 12 noon finish, for all pupils. We would remind parents that only one parent (Nursery to P4) may enter the school grounds to pick up their child(ren) and face coverings must be worn. P5-7 parents should arrange to pick their children up at a designated point, along the Cliftonville Road. Schools starts back again, at normal times as follows:



P1-P7 Wednesday 5th January 2022

Nursery Thursday 6th January 2022

Finally.....

We might have a special visitor in school this Monday and Tuesday provided he doesn't get Covid! I just hope that all the boys and girls have been good and make sure they help parents with tidying their bedroom this weekend ☺