

GROWING
AND
LEARNING
TOGETHER

COOL NEWS

From Cooley School
Issue No 1 – 2020/21



From the Principal's Desk

It has been great to have Cooley Primary School and Nursery Unit open again after the period of 'lockdown', although as we all know it is very different to what it is normally like. Pupils have managed really well and adjusted to the new routines and staff were very happy to welcome every child back to education. We have 11 new children in Year 1 and 22 pupils in nursery, so we send out a special welcome to the new families joining us in these classes and also to other new families throughout the school. You are all very welcome to the Cooley community.

Nursery Pupils



Year 1 Pupils



Our Bubbles

Each classroom setting is operating as a bubble. Each bubble has its own entrance door and arrangements for exit, and a set of toilets each. These bubbles stay together in their own zone in the playground during break and lunch. There are also staggered break times and slots for bubbles to eat in the dining hall. Again, pupils stay in their own bubble while eating lunch. Our nursery unit as a whole is operating as a bubble.

HAND HYGIENE

Regular hand washing is continuing first thing on arrival at school/nursery, before eating and also before leaving school/nursery. There may be other occasions when hands are washed, and hand sanitiser used at other times. Please check your child has adequate hand sanitiser and tissues in school.



COATS

A coat with a hood MUST be worn/sent daily as we are aiming to get outside at break times to allow the pupils more space and fresh air. Nursery and foundation stage pupils also need coats for outdoor playtimes.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please ensure all items of uniform, coats and lunchboxes, etc are clearly named. We already have had 'lost' items and it is extremely difficult to return to the rightful owner when items are not labelled.

On PE days in the primary school children may wear navy jogging/track suit bottoms or leggings and trainers, with their red PE polo shirts. Navy jumpers and cardigans should also be worn but please send a hooded coat as well.

AQE

Please note the dates for AQE tests for Year 7 have been changed. The new dates are as follows:

- Saturday 9th January
- Saturday 16th January
- Saturday 23rd January.

DROP OFF & COLLECTION TIMES

Thank you for your assistance at these key times of the school and nursery day. I would appeal to you to use parking spaces at the front and side of the school when these are available please and keep the bus lane free during morning drop off and end of primary school day collection. Parents collecting children by car at home time should move right to the end of the right-hand side lane to allow other parents in vehicles to access the school grounds. We would appreciate your co-operation in this matter. So far we are content with arrival and departure arrangements without having to stagger them. We don't envisage changing this because it is working well. Thank you so much for your support in this and please ensure your child washes their hands as soon as they get home.

Child Protection

Our designated teacher for child protection is Miss Cathcart and our deputy designated teachers are Mrs Carrothers and Mrs Byrne. Any queries or problems should be directed to them.

NUT-FREE SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT

A reminder that Cooley Primary School and Nursery Unit is a 'nut-free' environment. We greatly appreciate your support in this matter by not sending any items for break or lunch that contain nuts/nut traces. Thank you.

YEAR ONE

A reminder that all Year 1 pupils will remain in school until 2.15pm from Monday 28th September 2020.

SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS

If you have any reading books, library books or other textbooks at home from last year, we would appreciate it if you would return them to school as soon as possible. Thank you.

Shared Education

All Shared Education activities between partnership schools have been put on hold for this academic year due to the pandemic.

COVID 19 SYMPTOMS

You have recently received literature from the Department of Education regarding COVID-19 so please ensure that you investigate any symptoms your child may have. As a school and nursery unit we will be taking PHA advice if there are any positive cases.



PTA NEWS

We are pleased to announce that our application to the Charity Commission for registered charity status has now been approved. This will mean that there will be a wider variety of grants, fundraising events and funding that school can access through the PTA. Each year we very much value the work of the Parent Teacher Association Committee. Events may be curtailed this year, due to Covid-19, but more details will follow as to how you can become involved. The AGM is planned for Thursday 8th October at 7.30pm - separate details will be sent to you.

Healthy Eating

As we have seen over the past number of months, our health and well-being has never been so important. To this end parents are asked to encourage their children to eat well balanced meals. Resources are available at the following websites:

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publication/s/are-you-packing-healthy-lunch-english-and-irish-translation>

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publication/s/healthy-breaks-schools-leaflet-english-and-irish-translation>

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publication/s/healthy-choices-choose-wisely-advice-parents>

Thank you

I sincerely thank you for all your support and co-operation as the new academic year unfolds and look forward to us continuing to work in partnership.

School Dinners

A decision was made to move to the assembly hall to consume school dinners so you will have recently received the updated school dinner menu. The children have more space and it is much more conducive to eating than in the classrooms. Mrs Reid the canteen supervisor and her staff continue to follow all guidelines carefully and I urge you to support our school kitchen.

EA Transport



The majority of our pupils using EA transport are wearing face coverings, so I thank you for your encouragement in this matter. Please remind your children to wear a seatbelt while on the bus and to remain seated until the bus stops at their particular destination. Thank you.

RELIEF STAFF

I would like to thank those who responded to the appeal for relief staff should they be required over this period of COVID-19 pandemic. I would appeal again if you feel you or another family member would be able to support the school and nursery unit in the position of classroom assistant, lunchtime supervisor or in the areas of cleaning or caretaking should the need arise. Schools are anticipating there could be staff shortages due to the current situation, so it would be good to have a register of those who we could call upon to assist us in a paid capacity.

ATTENDANCE

The attendance register is marked twice a day. If a pupil is absent for part of the day, this is recorded. Allowances are made for medical appointments and therefore it is important to inform the school/nursery in written form, if your child has to be absent from school. If children have to leave school before the end of the day, the school should be informed in advance. A number of years ago the Department of Education introduced a new code to highlight unauthorised absence for family holidays during term time. Please do not book holidays at times when your child should be in school. If your child is physically sick or has had diarrhoea, it is recommended that they should be kept off school for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness. As we hear of reports of coughs, colds and tummy bugs going around, please check for any signs and symptoms of illness and keep children at home if they are sick.

Congratulations to Hannah Cuthbertson, Finley Lyons and Lillie Todd who each achieved a year's full attendance and Aaron Livingston who had full attendance for 2 years. Well done to the four of you!!

