



In Spires

April/May 2021

Covid -19 impact & update

As communicated to parents on 30 March, we moved to an 8.45am opening in Term 3 due to the small percentage of children attending before then. This small number seems to be a reflection of the number of parents who are working from home. This also ensured that a few children weren't sitting in the classroom for 30 minutes before the school day and provided staff with time to prepare work and attend meetings. Following a risk assessment, it is still deemed unsafe for pupils to wait in the playground until the beginning of the school day, as bubbles will be mixing. This is only a temporary measure and we aim to return to the normal opening of the gate at 8.30am in September.

As you are aware, we are very fortunate to be the only school in the town which has not (to date) had a group/cluster out of school due to Covid cases this year. We have strict protocols in place which undoubtedly are helping to protect our school community, however the virus is still very prevalent in our locality, with one school having to close entirely for over a week this term and another two having to do the same just before Easter. Therefore, we cannot become complacent and are all encouraged to continue to follow government and PHA guidance so that we can successfully get through this term with all pupils and staff in attendance.

With this in mind, pupils will participate in Sports Day within their Key Stages and unfortunately parents will not be able to attend. We are currently trying to organise some kind of P7 Leavers' event outside and will keep you informed. While this is not what any of us would prefer, we are grateful that we can hold these events at all in some form this year, compared to last year.

Shared Education

Our P4 & P5 pupils are continuing to avail of the Athletics online programme through Peace IV Shared Education funding. This is our fourth year of very purposeful and successful engagement and learning opportunities with the staff and pupils of the three other primary schools in the town.



General

Please remember to send water bottles in with your children and also label school jumpers.

RSE

Our Relationships and Sexuality Education Programme begins again this term. A Parent Information Booklet has been sent home. This is a factual programme which builds upon the previous year's learning and encourages dialogue between parents and children at home.

Traffic

Please remember to turn left when leaving the school grounds as this helps to maintain the flow of traffic.

Dates for Your Diary

30 April	Final session of Fresh Little Minds for P2 & P3
3 & 4 May	School closed, Bank Holiday & Staff Training
7 May	Love for Life P6 & P7
10 May	Mental Health Awareness Week
11 May	Bus & Road Safety talk by PSNI and Translink P6 & P7
14 May	First session of Fresh Little Minds for P6 & P7
15 May	Confirmation at 12 noon P7
26 May	Cybercrime/online safety by PSNI P7
31 May &	School closed, Bank Holiday & Staff Training
1 June	
3 June	School Nurse – P1 (different days)
5 June	First Communion at 12 noon P4
18 June	Pirate Day P3
30 June	Final day of term – non uniform