

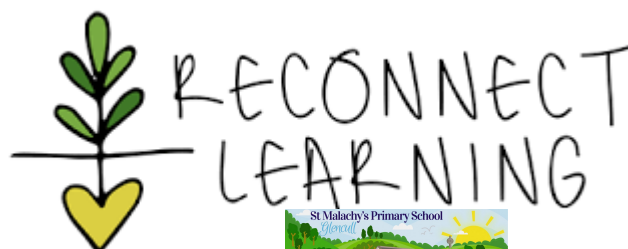


# Reconnect 2021

This purpose of this update is to highlight some of the changes we will be making to our school day to help our whole community reconnect with our learning and each other. Please take the time to read it carefully.



At St Malachy's we see this restart as an opportunity for our school family to work together to do everything possible to ensure your school is a safe environment for the children, staff and whole community. Our staff are confident that we will support your children with 'reconnecting' on everything that was missed over lock down; academically, socially and everything in-between!



## Health and Hygiene

It is essential that children are reminded of the importance of good hygiene. Please ensure that they know how to wash their hands properly for 20 seconds and that they are familiar with using hand sanitiser also. We would also appreciate if you can remind them to cough/sneeze

into their elbow if they do not have a tissue. We will be going over these routines in school too, but it will be more effective if the children hear the same message at home and at school. The give me 5 message is a great simple tool for this.



# Class Bubbles

P1/2 and P3 classes will now be in their usual room with no overspilling into other spaces. Children of keyworkers will be in another classroom. Each classroom will “act as a single consistent bubble with minimal prolonged interaction with other classes”. Social distancing requirements of 2m for adults still remain and we ask that parents keep this in mind when interacting with staff and when dropping off and collecting children.

P1/2

Bubble

P3

Bubble

Keyworker child

Bubble

## What I need



Uniforms

Full school uniform is to be worn as normal, including a warm, waterproof coat as there will be lots of outdoor learning. P.E. uniform will be worn to school on P.E. days (Monday Wednesday). **Policy on P.E. uniform: children can wear any sports gear however, we ask that parents set aside sports gear that will only be worn to school on specified P.E days.**

We still ask that school bags are not sent in. Although some second level schools have allowed bags, a primary school child often needs more support with packing and unpacking a school bag creating more opportunities for spread of germs.

## Reconnecting

St Malachy's PS knows the importance of providing planned opportunities for children to re-establish face-to-face friendships, reconnect with staff, work with others and talk about their interests and experiences over the last number of weeks. Assembly in small groups or zoom, with all watching on screen in their classrooms, is a means to give a positive starting message, and encourage a sense of belonging to the school community, therefore the zoom timetable established over the last number of weeks will continue with dance, drama, football and assembly.

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## What to bring to school?

Children should bring a pencil case, stocked with essential items into school, this will then stay in school. Pencils x 5, colouring pencils, ruler, eraser, pencil sharpener, Pritt stick 40g. Also bring a water bottle and lunch box.

Bring **nothing additional to school**- no schoolbags etc. Please do not worry if you have already purchased these, hopefully we will be able to use them as the situation improves. Initially the term will begin with no homework. Homework will be phased in after Easter.

## Masks

Pupils and staff will have the option of wearing face masks and or shields to school. Adult visitors to the school (by prior appointment only) should wear a mask/face covering, unless exempt.



## Meals—Return of the Lunch Box!

When your child is bringing a packed lunch they can now use a lunch box (preferably one that can be wiped down, but please don't feel the need to purchase anything new). Children can continue to use a disposable/paper bags if you have already bought them. These can be placed in the recycling/bin when lunch is over. Cooked meals will be available for pupils upon return and further details regarding menus will be shared when the NI executive gives clear messaging on return procedure/dates. All children will eat in their classrooms to facilitate 'protective bubbles'.





## Morning Drop Off

Family groups arriving for normal start times (8.45-9.15) should only exit their car when the entrance walkway is clear after others have entered the school building. All children sanitise hands at the front lobby walk straight to their classroom. Parents wishing to contact teachers can use teachers email addresses to communicate, this avoids any unscheduled adults entering the building.

Face coverings are strongly encouraged on school transport if you are able to wear and use them. Bus drivers will be wearing them. Face coverings are mandatory for over 13s on public transport. School transport will operate as normal from Monday 8th March to Friday 19th March (with the exception of 17th March) for P1 - P3 children.

## Visitors

We stress that no visitors/parents will be permitted into the school building without an appointment. This goes against our ethos as we take great pride in being a very warm and welcoming school, particularly to parents.

## Afternoon Collection

Parents should use the carpark as normal to park their cars. Two x 2m waiting boxes are painted either side of the school gates. Parents should use these boxes to stand and wait for their children. Children will then leave their class bubbles and walk to meet their parents in these boxes. Exit your car when one of the boxes is available. Collection times for P3-7's are staggered based on family names.



Staggered collection times	P1/2 children	P3-7	
	All P1/2	M & Mc	All other surnames
Time	2pm	2.50 pm	3.10 pm

## Playtimes

Break and lunch times will be staggered so that children will remain in their classroom bubble. The playground areas around the school will be zoned when there is more than one class outside at the same time, to ensure that 'protective bubbles' are maintained.

## Contingency Planning

Children (and staff) who have any symptoms associated with Covid 19 must not attend school. Children who live with someone who has symptoms associated with Covid 19 must also stay at home. These symptoms include a new, continuous cough or a high temperature/fever or anosmia (a loss or a change in your normal sense of smell, which can also affect your sense of taste).

If a child (or a member of staff) becomes unwell in school, they and any members of their household will use our temporary waiting room, under the covered play area, until someone arrives to bring them home, and parents will be advised to follow the PHA guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection. St Malachy's encourage your family to have a contingency plan for collecting children at very short notice so if a bubble happens to be sent home we will all be able to react quickly to protect each other.



## Water Bottles

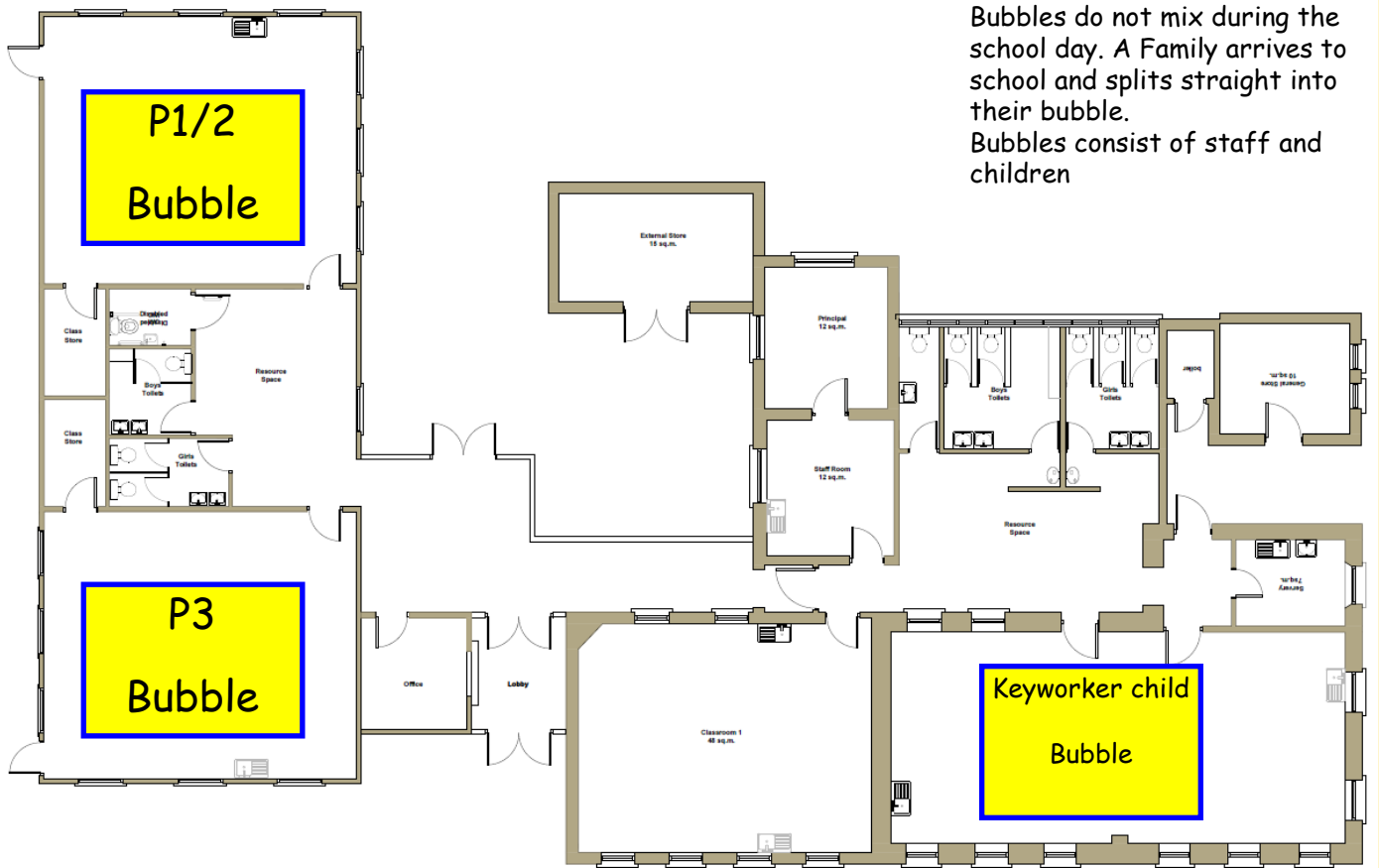


Please bring a water bottle to school. Write your child's name on the water bottle clearly. The bottle can stay in school to reduce the number of items your child is carrying.

Reconnect 2021  
Teaching Arrangements—Until Easter

## Classrooms

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
P1/2	Mrs Mc Kenna				
P3	Mrs Mc Veigh + Mrs. Doherty (team-teaching)				Mrs. Doherty
P4	Mrs Mc Veigh + Mrs. Doherty (team-teaching—remotely)				
P5	Mr Morrow (Remotely)				
P6/7	Mr. Canavan (Remotely)				



Bubbles do not mix during the school day. A Family arrives to school and splits straight into their bubble.  
Bubbles consist of staff and children

## Weekly Meal Planner

	08/03/2020	15/03/2020
Monday	Home Made Pizza	Pasta Bologanise
	Pasta Bologanise	Home Made Pizza
	Mash Potato Mixed Vegetables	Mash Potato Mixed Vegetables
	chocolate sponge	Choc Sponge
Tuesday	Steak Burger chicken curry rice	Chicken Goujons Mixed Vegetables
	Mash Potato carrots	Mash Potato
	rice krispie square	Flakemeal Biscuits
Wednesday	Chicken Panini Fish Fingers	
	Mash Potato beans	st patrick day off
	Sweetcorn	
	chocolate cookies	
Thursday	Roast Chicken & Stuffing	Roast Chicken & Stuffing
	Oven Dry Roast Potato	Cauliflower Carrots
	Mixed Vegetables Mash Potato	mashed 1st potato
	Orange Cake	Muffin
Friday	lasagna	Chicken Wrap / Roll
	oven baked sausages	Oven Baked Sausages
	Mixed Salad potato / chips	Peas Mixed Salad
	Icecream Tub	chips / mashed potato Icecream Tub