



Restart 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.



Dear Parents and Pupils,

As we look forward to a new school year, it is a time of great excitement, with lots of hopes and wishes for a great year ahead for all of our pupils, staff and families.

We look forward to welcoming our new children into Primary 1 and to seeing all the rest of our boys and girls back at school again.

While we are thankful that some Covid related guidelines have been relaxed, it is important that we continue to make extra effort to minimise the risk of transmission throughout the school and our community.

Following updated guidance from the Department of Education and the PHA, this newsletter gives you general information about how school will operate this year, we again ask for your support with keeping our whole community safe.

If you have any further enquiries or specific questions please phone the School Office or email me bgormley892@c2ken.net.

A more detailed newsletter will be issued soon after school starts.

Much thanks and appreciation as always for your support and co-operation.

From All the staff at St. Malachy's

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.



We're really looking forward to welcoming our new P1s for their first day of school. P1 parents are asked to bring their child past the front door to the green gate at 9am so that they can bring their P1 to the back play trail and to the back door of their classroom.

Class Bubbles

P1 and P2/3 classes will be in their usual room. TUI club will take place, with those attending being in the TUI bubble. P3s are not part of the TUI bubble. Each bubble 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
Bubble

TUI club
Bubble

P2/3
Bubble

P4/5
Bubble

P6/7
Bubble



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 (class days to follow). 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.

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 summer break. Assembly via 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. The extra curricular timetable with dance, drama, football etc. will be built up at September continues. The costs of this will be highlighted in the “School Money App”.

What to bring to school?

Children should bring a school bag to school and home again. We ask that they also bring a pencil case, stocked with essential items into school, this will then stay in school. Pencils x 5, colouring pencils (Crayons instead of colouring pencils for P1-2), ruler, eraser, pencil sharpener, Pritt stick 40g. Also bring a water bottle and lunch box.

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!

When your child is bringing a packed lunch they can use a lunch box (preferably one that can be wiped down, but please don't feel the need to purchase anything new).

Cooked meals will be available for pupils upon return and further details regarding using the “School Money App” will follow in the first week. Your child will tell the teacher if they are taking lunch or dinner when they arrive to school and this can be paid for using school money in week 2. 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 from Wednesday 1st Sept. It is not available on Tuesday 31st.

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 car collection times	P1/2 children	P3-7 +TUI club	
	All P1/2	M & Mc	All other sur-names
Time	2pm	3.00 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.

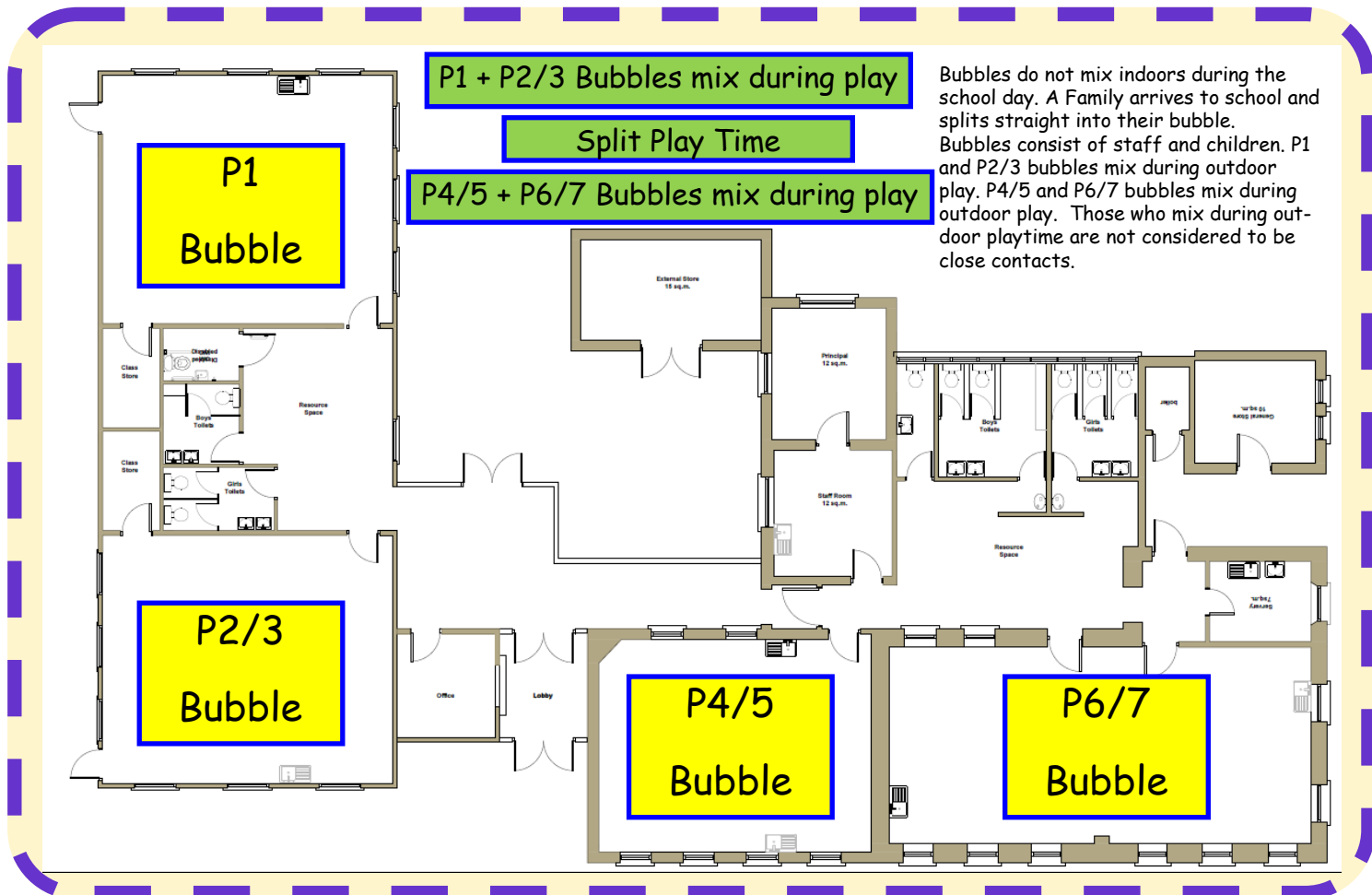
Classrooms



Sept 2021
Teaching Arrangements—
Until Bubbling is no longer required.

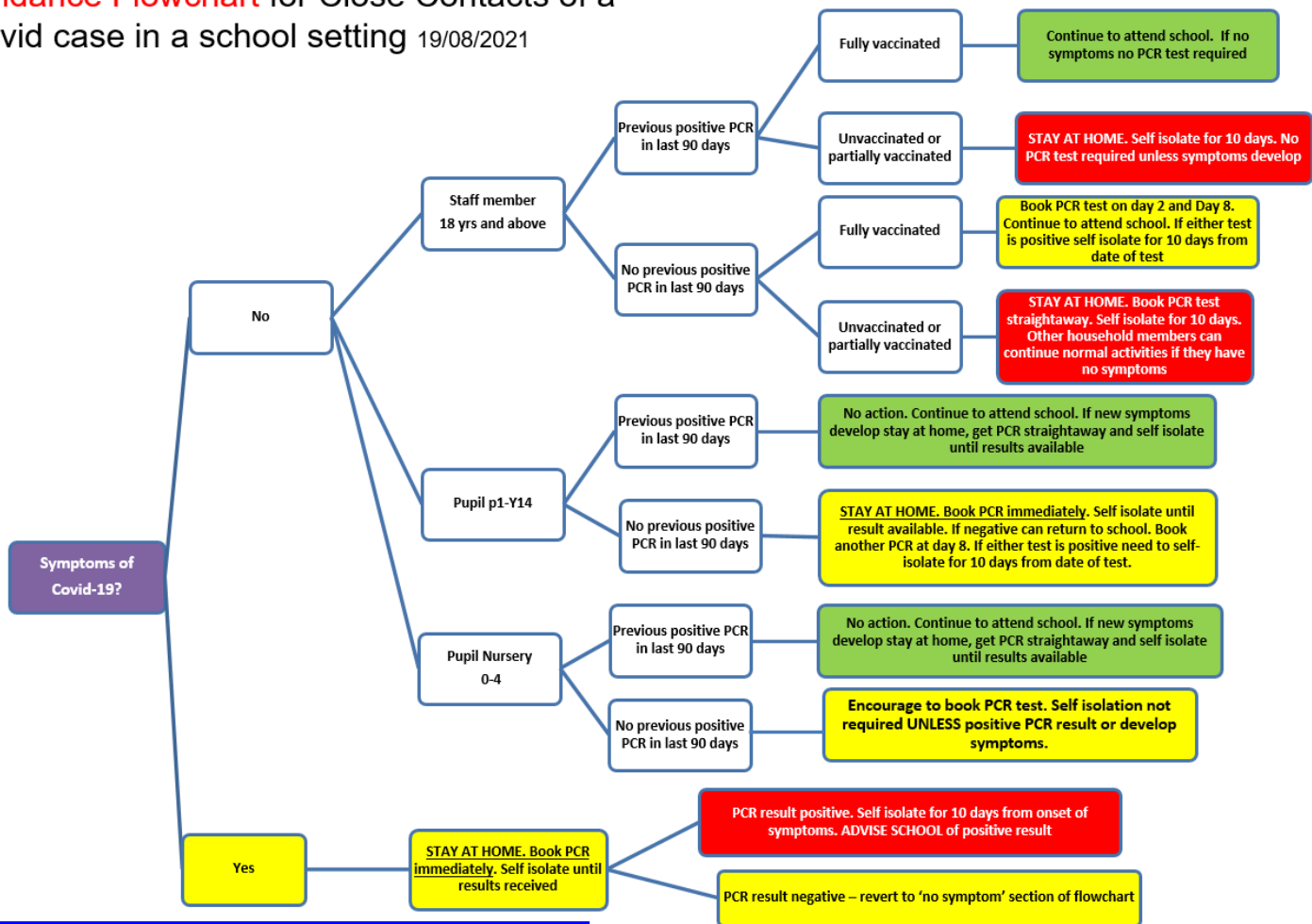
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
P1	Mrs. Mc Kenna				
P2/3	Mrs. Mc Veigh				Mr. Gormley
P4/5	Mr. Canavan				
P6/7	Mrs. Murphy				

Classroom arrangements for September 2021 are highlighted in this table. Mrs. Murphy who had worked with P3/4 last year will teach P6/7 and Mr Gormley will teach P2/3 on Fridays. We wish Mr. Morrow luck as he begins his new role teaching P7 in St. Mary's Cabragh.



Follow this flow chart if those in your child's bubble are identified as "Close Contacts"

Guidance Flowchart for Close Contacts of a Covid case in a school setting 19/08/2021



Subject to change based on PHA guidance.