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**Back to School Update – 02/09/20**

**Thank you for your co-operation and patience as we get things back to a ‘new normal’ in St. Mary’s PS Altinure. So far, things have been going really well and the children and staff are enjoying being back at school. We have as many safety measures as possible in place for the protection of everyone and the pupils are adapting really quickly to the changes we have made.**

**Important Information**

* School dinners are now available at a cost of £2.60. A weekly menu should be available by next week. Roast dinners will still take place on a Thursday and chips on a Friday so the pupils will be glad to hear that! If you want your child to have breakfast at school, this is still possible but an order must be placed with the canteen staff the day before. Price lists are available on request.
* School milk will be available in small cartons to all classes from P1 – P7 at a cost of £5.00 per month from Monday 8th September. This has been an increase in the supplier’s cost to us. Please place £5.00 in an envelope marked with the amount, your child’s name and labelled milk money as soon as possible.
* Fruit continues to be available from reception at a cost of £1.00 per week. This service is very good value but very few pupils buy this fruit at present. The service will only continue if it is more widely used by pupils.
* ALL MONEY MUST BE BROUGHT TO SCHOOL IN AN ENVELOPE MARKED WITH THE CHILD’S NAME, THE AMOUNT AND WHAT IT IS PAYING FOR. MONEY MUST BE THE EXACT AMOUNT- NO CHANGE CAN BE GIVEN. Any money paid in advance before lockdown will be carried over to this term.
* P.E. Days are as follows for the different classes:
* Miss Kealey’s P1/2 – Monday and Wednesday
* Miss McKinney/Mrs Hegarty’s P2/3 – Tuesday and Thursday
* Mrs Boyle’s P4 – Wednesday and Friday
* Ms Herron/Mrs Redmond’s P5 – Monday and Friday
* Mrs McAleer’s P6 – Tuesday and Thursday
* Miss Doyle’s P7 – Tuesday and Thursday

ON PE DAYS, PUPILS SHOULD WEAR PE GEAR (SPORTS GEAR) TO SCHOOL. Please make sure these clothes are warm enough for class eg hoodie and leggings with t-shirt/jersey underneath. No other uniform needs to be brought to school on PE days.

* We realise that plastic bags are difficult for pupils to manage, particularly younger pupils. WE THEREFORE WILL ALLOW LUNCH BOXES TO SCHOOL – HOWEVER THIS LUNCH BOX SHOULD BE HARD PLASTIC AND EASILY WASHABLE ON ARRIVING HOME. FABRIC LUNCHBOXES ARE NOT PERMITTED AS THEY CANNOT BE EASILY DISINFECTED/WIPED ON THE OUTSIDE. A plastic or paper bag can still be brought to carry items if necessary. Reusable plastic bottles can also be brought to school. It is parental responsibility to ensure that these items are washed thoroughly at home.
* There will be no written homework for the first 2 weeks at school. However, children will have reading books and P3-7 pupils will have AR books. These books can be brought home to promote reading skills. Please encourage only your child to handle the book at home and in school, they will be encouraged to keep these books away from others. Reading books and AR books will be quarantined for 72 hours before they can be issued to other pupils. All classes will be provided with plastic wallets in the coming days which will hold items brought from school to home and vice versa. *(More information will follow on our plans for written homework.)*

Remember, if your child displays any of the symptoms of COVID 19 (a new continuous cough, a temperature or a loss of taste or smell), you must not send them or their siblings to school. You must arrange a COVID test and await the result. If your child receives a negative result and they have had no symptoms for 48 hours, they can return to school safely. If they have a positive result, you must inform school by telephone as soon as possible. Your child must isolate for 10 days and your household for 14 days. The Public Health Agency will offer you advice as needed.

I hope this update has addressed some of your queries.

**Thanks again for all your support.**

Mrs Redmond

Principal