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## ***Braidside Integrated Primary and Nursery School***

**89 Fry's Road, Ballymena Co. Antrim BT43 7EN**

**1989- 2019: 30 Years of Integration**

**028 25647899**



**Principal: J McAuley**

**[www.braidside.co.uk](http://www.braidside.co.uk)**

**30/08/2023**

Dear Parent/ Guardian,



### **Welcome to the new school year!**

I hope you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer break, even with the disappointing weather this year. We are looking forward to seeing the P2-7 children return to school and to welcoming the P1 and Nursery children to school for the first time. The first few weeks are sure to be busy, as children and staff adapt to their new classes, routines and timetables for the year ahead. For P1 and Nursery, we have different start dates for the children and throughout September we gradually increase their school day to assist with settling in.

This year we welcome Mr Mark Donaghy to Braidside as P7 teacher, following Mr O'Sullivan's retirement. Mr Donaghy previously taught at Glengormley IPS and we are delighted to have him join our school. I am certain he will receive a warm welcome to the school community.

### **School Meals**

As we begin the school year we would request that if your child takes school meals and has any dietary requirements, parents should contact the school office promptly. There are specific forms which parents are required to complete and which will be forwarded to the EA kitchen. We have been provided with an updated list from the EA of all those children entitled to free school meals. We encourage all those who are entitled to receive free school meals to make their online application now, if you have not already done so.

### **New School Year~ Meet and Greet!**

As with last year, we would like to offer parents the opportunity to meet their new class teacher early in the school term, visit the classroom, pick-up some general information and have the opportunity to ask questions in a relaxed and informal capacity. To this end we will be holding sessions as follows:

***KS1 Session (P2-4): Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2-3.15pm***

***KS2 Session (P5-7): Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2-3.15pm***

On these days, children will finish school at 12:15pm.

Parents will initially meet in the assembly hall, prior to moving to the classrooms.

Throughout September, teachers are very much focused on settling in processes, pupil wellbeing, getting to know the children and completing some baseline

assessments to ascertain where the children are in their learning. We prioritise in school time and making a positive start to the new school year

### **Making contact**

For general queries, parents may contact the school office or send an email ([info@braidsideintegratedps.ballymena.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@braidsideintegratedps.ballymena.ni.sch.uk)). If there is a specific issue concerning your child you wish to discuss, parents are asked, in the first instance, to make an appointment with the class teacher. The class teacher should be the first point of contact. Appointments can be made via email or by contacting the school office.

Parents are asked to ensure children have information about afternoon pickups, to avoid telephoning the school office. School and the office staff are very busy throughout the day and we appreciate your help in ensuring children have all school materials, lunch/break items and equipment when they come to school.

I would continue to encourage parents to visit the website and Facebook page regularly to ensure you are up to date with all relevant information. Please visit your child's class page where teachers will place information, pictures and updates on the work happening in school. A large number of families have downloaded the SchoolsNI app and this allows us to send alerts to parents when information is placed on the website.

### **The School Day - Reminders:**

School children may arrive from 8:50am, class begins at 9am. Please do not drop off children earlier than scheduled. Children should be in their classroom by 9am for the morning register.

P1-3 enter through the KS1 gate, P4-7 enter at the main entrance.

P1-3 finish school at 2pm. ***We would request that children are collected promptly,*** as all teachers have further teaching commitments in the afternoon and office staff are unavailable to supervise.

P4-7 finish school at 3pm.

Please ensure all children are aware of their collection arrangements for 2/3pm.

In the case of pupil absences, please ensure class teacher/ office staff are provided with a reason for absence as soon as the child returns to school. Please aim for a high level of attendance, i.e above 95%. Regular school attendance has a significant impact for pupil progress and all pupil attendance is regularly monitored.

### **Medical Matters**

At the beginning of the school year, we update all pupil information through the data capture form. We ask that parents check this information thoroughly, provide updated information if necessary and *as a priority ensure that contact details are accurate.* If children have medical conditions these should be recorded on the form. Additionally, if your children has asthma, please ensure inhalers are in school and given to the class teacher for storage in the classroom. If your child has medication which needs to be administered in school, then contact should be made with the school office and the correct documentation completed prior to medication commencing.

**Breakfast Club** will commence on ***Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September @ 8:15am***. Bookings for Breakfast Club must be made/paid a week in advance and sent to the school office. Breakfast Club is available at a cost of £1.50 per day.

**Morning Reading Club** will commence on ***Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September @ 8:40am***. Information about class days will be shared in due course.

**Stay and Play Club (P1-3)** will commence on ***Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September*** and as with Breakfast Club this should be paid and booked in advance with the school office.

### **Healthy Break**

At Braidside, we operate a healthy break policy. Children are encouraged to have fruit, vegetables or bread to eat along with either milk or water to drink. Similarly, children are encouraged to bring a bottle of water to school to stay hydrated throughout the school day.

### **Uniform/ Mobile Phones**

**Children should wear school uniform every day.** Children/ parents will be informed by the class teacher of their PE days. On these days children may wear appropriate PE kit to school.

**Children should not bring mobile phones to school.** Make-up and nail varnish are not permitted in school. For healthy and safety/ hygiene reason pupils with long hair are asked to wear this tied back. Likewise, jewellery should be kept to a minimum and taken off for PE for health and safety purposes.

We look forward to a positive and engaging school year. We will continue to keep parents abreast of events and activities in school and we thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

*J McAuley*

Principal.