

Our Lady's Girls' Primary School

Deanby Gardens, Belfast, BT14 6NN
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Principal: Mrs E Hughes
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OUR LADY'S GIRLS'
PRIMARY SCHOOL



1 September 2020



Dear Parent/Guardian,

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Today we had our first full day of school for our Deanby girls. We are delighted to have everyone back and it was so lovely to hear the buzz and laughter in the classrooms. Life will be different for the foreseeable future, but we will still have lots of fun in school. This year we will be sending home very little paper correspondence. Today you will also have been sent a form to fill out, to enable us to update any addresses or mobile phone numbers that may have changed over the last few months – please complete and return to school with your child tomorrow. All forms will be quarantined for 72 hours before our office staff can access the information.

KEEPING THE SCHOOL INFORMED

It is so **IMPORTANT** that we have at least two working mobile phone numbers for your child. If we need to contact you and are unable to reach you or the second contact, your child will be asked to remain at home until two viable phone numbers are provided.

SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

When dropping off and picking up your children, please be considerate of other adults and keep your distance. We encourage the wearing of masks or visors, whilst you wait at the gates. Our school is promoting the StopCOVID NI track and trace app. We hope that many of you have downloaded the app.

LUNCHES AND SNACKS

Currently children should bring a snack or their lunch in a disposable bag. We will review this mid-September and may then allow lunch boxes. A healthy snack is available in school at the cost of £2.00 per week.

MONEY

Any money being sent into school, MUST be in an envelope with your child's name, class, reason for payment and the amount clearly written on the front. Staff will not be handling money.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

The Education Authority have a backlog of paperwork and so not all Free School Meals applications will be processed in time for the return to school. Pupils will not be left without access to a hot meal. Any child presenting for FSM whose application has not been processed in time by EA, will be provided with a meal up until the 11 September. Hopefully by then, all FSM applications will have been processed.

WELL-BEING

For the first few weeks our focus will be on pupils **social and emotional well-being**. We are so aware that because they have been out of school since March, the impact on well-being will be significant. We have planned a recovery curriculum to include nurture activities which will comfort and reassure them. Over the next weeks, Ciara Taggart from *Calmeleons*, will be in school working with pupils. We will be using only positive language - We will **NOT** use words like 'catch-up' or 'missed' work.

SCHOOL BUS

Our bus is up and running today, Tuesday 1 September. The bus leaves the corner of Berwick Road (at the Brompton Park end) at approximately **8.40am** for arrival at school by 9.15am and follows the usual route. There will be two afternoon buses at **1.50pm and 2.30pm**. **NEW PRICES** have been issued by the bus company. Please have the correct money ready: £1.20 single, £2.40 return or £8.50 for a weekly ticket. Children travelling by bus in P6&7 will leave class early at 2.30pm. **We advise the wearing of masks on the school bus, if your child is able to do so. This may not be possible for our younger girls.** Advice from the Department of Education is... 'while parents and children should be encouraged to use other means of travelling to school for example, walking or cycling where it is safe and reasonable to do so, we recognise that for many children the home to school transport network may be the only available option'.

Should you need to contact the school, please ring the school office. Unfortunately, parents have no access to the school building at present. We strongly encourage you to read the **Parent Booklet, 'Back to School Restart Programme'**, which can be found on our website www.ourladsdeanby.co.uk **Parents Area – School Letters**. This booklet outlines all the changes in school for our pupils and all the guidelines for our parents too, so as you can best support your child and the school. We look forward to a happy and healthy term. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,
Emer Hughes

