**Reopening School Information Ballykelly Primary School and Nursery Unit.**

Dear Parent,

We would like to thank you for your continued support during these challenging and unprecedented times. We have been working hard in school to put together a plan to ensure the safe return of children using the Northern Ireland Reopening Schools Guidance issued on the 19th June 2020. This plan is our first draft and may be subject to change depending on guidance that may be given over the summer period.

Staff will return on the 17th August and we will issue our final draft of “The New School Day” to parents during this week via our school website, SeeSaw, Facebook and our text messaging service.

**Week beginning 24th August-** all children moving into P7 will return from 9am- 12 noon Monday to Friday.

Children moving into P1-P6 will return to their former class in a small group phased basis throughout the week, with everyone returning on Friday 28th August from 9am to 12 noon. – more details will follow.

This will be an opportunity to give some closure to the school year and to offer reassurance regarding returning to school and the impact of COVID-19.

The Speech & Language Class will restart as a group and will come to school 26th & 27th August-more details will follow.

Children starting Nursery and P1 will have a different restart timetable and will be notified via Seesaw.

We are hoping to follow the ‘decreased interaction strategy’ where whole classes are treated as a “bubble”. Procedures have been put in place to ensure classes are kept separate and movement around school is as limited as possible. Currently we can not confirm if this will be whole class or smaller groups attending full-time or part time, but we are hopeful that all the children can return full-time and remain in their class “bubbles”.

Children can arrive between 8.30-9am and go straight to their classroom. Breakfast Club, After-School clubs and school mini-bus cannot begin at this stage- however, this will be reviewed once the guidance states that it is safe to recommence these.

Children travelling with EA transport (Yellow Bus) we are awaiting guidance for the Education Authority.

Catering arrangements- we are awaiting guidance for the Education Authority.

Children will be given lots of opportunities to wash their hands throughout the day, with soap and hand sanitiser readily available.

Children should wear school uniform as normal.

Children are asked to bring a school bag. All children will be provided with their own individual basic stationery set and we ask that you do not send pencil cases and contents. They only need one small packet of colouring pencils/crayons/ felt tip pens to leave for their own individual use in school.

We hope you all have a lovely summer holiday and we pray that the situation with COVID-19 becomes a positive picture as we move throughout July and August.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Cole

Principal