



## ***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)**

**01/09/2022**

Dear Parent/ Guardian,



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

I hope you have all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer break. 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.

### **School Meals**

In this school year, we will have a return to 2 lunchtime sittings in the dining hall; which is another progression from the previous 2 years. The dinner menu for September 2022 is available to download from the website. Please note, if your child takes school meals and has any dietary requirements, please do make the school aware. We have specific forms which we will ask parents 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.

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

As we begin this new school year, we would like to offer parents the opportunity to meet their new class teacher, 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 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2-3.15pm***

***KS2 Session (P5-7): Wednesday 14<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 school/ class 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 you

wish to discuss, I would ask all parents to make an appointment with the class teacher firstly.

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.

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.

**Breakfast Club** will commence on ***Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September @ 8:15am.*** Bookings for Breakfast Club should 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 5<sup>th</sup> September @ 8:40am*** and children should attend on the following days: P2F/H (Mon), P3H (Tues), P3/4O (Wed), P4C (Thurs), P5M (Fri)

### **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 each day. Children/ parents will be informed by the class teacher of their PE days.

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 encouraged to wear this tied back. Likewise, jewellery should be kept to a minimum and taken off for PE for health and safety purposes.



### BIKE TO SCHOOL WEEK: Mon 26<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup> September

Our first whole school activity is Bike to School week and we hope lots of children will take the opportunity to travel actively to school. We have had great success with our Sustrans programme and love to see the children coming to school this way.

Fingers crossed we get a reasonable week in terms of the weather!

### ENGAGE II



In September 2020, the Department of Education launched the “**Engage Programme**” with the objective of supporting children and young people as they returned to school following the first lockdown from March- June 2020. The aim was that the programme would “*limit any long-term adverse impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on educational*

*standards by supporting pupils’ learning and engagement... through provision of high quality one-to-one, small group or team teaching in every school in NI.”*

All schools were allocated funding on the basis of their enrolment size and free school meal entitlement. Using Engage funding, a plan for numeracy support, designed to give children a boost, was put in place in school and children throughout P3-P5 were identified through assessments, who would receive small group support in an intensive manner for a period of 6-8 weeks. This enabled the children to develop and reinforce their mathematical knowledge, as well as expand their confidence and enthusiasm.

Now as we commence 2022/23, further funding has been confirmed until December 2022 and we are pleased to note that, we will continue to provide numeracy sessions for a number of children. The numeracy sessions will be delivered this year by Miss O’Kane.

We look forward, with enthusiasm, to another successful 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.