



Back to Buick - August 2023

Hello Parents and Carers,

I hope you've all had a peaceful, relaxing summer break and this letter finds you and your family well.

STAFFING

We have a number of changes within staffing and we would like to share the new school teaching complement with you:

Nursery - Mrs Gault

P1SG - Miss Stirling

P2/1SW - Mrs Shirlow

P2GC - Mrs Gamble (Mon, Tues & Wed) and Mrs Carleton (Thurs & Fri)

P3HM - Mrs Hunter (Mon, Tues & Wed) and Mr Maybin (Thurs & Fri)

P4/3GM - Miss Gibson (Mon, Wed, Thurs and Fri) and Mr Maybin (Tues)

P5B - Mr Beattie

P6/5MC - Mrs McCleery

P6QG - Mrs McQuiston (Mon, Tues and Wed) and Mrs Gamble (Thurs & Fri)

P7K - Mrs Kyle

Learning Support Co-ordinator - Mrs Holland

Furthermore, our wonderful Classroom Assistants are Miss Morgan (Nursery), Ms A. Greer (P1) and Miss Harkin (P2).

Our SEN Assistants are Miss McLaughlin, Mrs S. Greer, Miss Henry, Miss H. Stirling, Mrs Service, Mrs Nicholl, Mrs Barr, Mrs Steele, Mrs E. Greer, Mrs Francey, Mrs Glover, Mrs McDowell, Mrs Rainey, Ms Allies and Mrs Johnston,

Mrs Hunter will continue as our Clerical Officer and will deal with all queries via the school office, 028 2588 0368.

Please note the return dates and times as follows:

Date	Class	Start Time	Finish Time
<u>Tuesday 29th August</u>	Nursery	Dates and times as scheduled on Information Packs.	
<u>Wednesday 30th August and Thursday 31st August only</u>	P1 pupils	Dates and times as scheduled on Information Packs.	12:15pm 12:15pm
	P2 pupils	8:45am	12 noon
	P3 pupils	8:45am	12 noon
	P4 pupils	8:45am	12 noon
	P5 pupils	8:45am	12 noon
	P6 pupils	8:45am	12 noon
	P7 pupils	8:45am	12 noon

This structured routine will afford children the opportunity to re-establish an effective sleeping pattern and will gently introduce them back into school life.

Date	Class	Start Time	Finish Time
Friday 1 st September onwards	Nursery	8:45am	11:30am
	P1 pupils	8:45am	12:15pm
	P2 pupils	8:45am	2pm
	P3 pupils	8:45am	2pm
	P4 pupils	8:45am	3pm
	P5 pupils	8:45am	3pm
	P6 pupils	8:45am	3pm
	P7 pupils	8:45am	3pm

*Please note Primary 1 pupils will stay until 2pm when they are deemed ready.

All P1-P4 children must be collected at the back gate.

**Primary 3 pupils will stay until 3:00pm (Mon, Tues and Wed) and 2pm (Thurs and Fri) in Terms 2 and Term 3.

TIMES

We will be retaining the 8:45 am opening time for the front and back gates. Classes will commence from 9:05 am. P2-P4 pupils may enter via the front gate and make their way up to the back playground.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club will operate from 8am - 8:45am each morning from Monday 4th September. You do not need to book in for this service via ParentMail. The back gates are opened from 8am-8:10am each morning. Children who arrive after this time, will not be permitted until the gates reopen at 8:45am. Breakfast Club costs £1 plus the foods consumed. Please see the menu prices below...

Breakfast Club Menu

Toast - 30p

Bagel - 30p

Pancake/Scone - 30p (when available)

Cereal - Rice Krispies, Wheatabix, Cheerios - 50p

Fruit Slice -10p

Strawberry/Grape pot - 50p

Apple or Orange Juice - 50p

2-3 CLUB

Buick's 2-3 Club will recommence from Monday 11th September at a cost of £3 per day. Places **MUST** be booked and paid for in advance via ParentMail to allow staffing and snack provision to be put in place accordingly.

DROP-OFF AND PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS

All parents **must leave their children at the school gates** in the morning. Staff will be on hand at the gates each morning. We would actively encourage all parents to talk with their child and prepare them for return to school. To alleviate traffic congestion in the village, we recommend that parents park in local car parks and walk to the school gates with their child.

P1SG and P2/1SW entry - Back playground - P1 & P2 doors

P2GC entry - Back Playground - P1 & P2 doors

P3HM entry - Back Playground - P1 & P2 doors

P4/3GM entry - Back Playground - P4 doors

P5B entry - Front Playground - side door - to the right of the building

P6/5MC entry - Front Playground - side door - to the right of the building

P6QG entry - Front Playground - side door to the right of the building

P7K entry - Front Playground - side door - to the right of the building

It is imperative that children arrive at school at the allocated time. Please do not drop off children earlier than scheduled. We respectfully ask parents not to linger at the gates. No parents will be permitted into the school grounds, in line with Child Protection procedures.

SCHOOL BAGS /LUNCH BAGS / PENCIL CASES

It is lovely to have new items for school, please ensure you label your child's belongings and all uniform items before Tuesday morning!

BUSES

Translink will operate from 1st September. Pupils are encouraged to sit in family groups. We would recommend that parents discuss the importance of travelling safely with their child. Any pupil found to be compromising the safety of other children will not be allowed to travel on the bus.

DINING CENTRE

Pupils should ensure they bring a healthy break and drink for the first few days. Buick's Dining Centre will re-open from 1st September on Week 1. Children who have been registered with the EA, will receive Free School Meals from Thursday 1st September. Those who have not been processed will need to pay until the registration has been completed with the EA.

Buick Dining Centre will operate for all children. School meals remain at a cost of £2.60, should you wish to avail of this option. Parents are encouraged to check the New Menu weekly. Please see the new Menu attached. We will begin on Monday 4th September on Week 2. Any pupils with allergies must complete the relevant forms before availing of meals from the Dining Centre. Primary 1 pupils may avail of this service when they are attending full days.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE SCHOOL DAY

Parents should ensure that their child leaves home each morning with their school bag, musical instrument, PE Kit, lunch and water bottle. Please do not drop items off at the front office as clerical staff are unable to leave the front of the school to deliver items to classrooms.

CLASSWORK

We will continue to provide the full breadth of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs will continue to have support in school and we will liaise with various external agencies to offer additional support.

HOMEWORK

Parents **MUST** ensure all homework is completed and signed accordingly. Research indicates that those children with supportive home environments will flourish the most within the Education System. Your child's education is a partnership between home and school.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

As a parent, it is your responsibility to ensure that your child's uniform is washed and clean each day. Please note that all pupils should now be wearing the dark brown jumper with the updated logo and the corresponding yellow polo shirt.

The new Buick PE Kit is also essential for all P1-P7 pupils. This will be promoted at special events such as Sports Day. By introducing this kit for all, we anticipate a greater sense of equality as well as promoting independence in dressing/ preparing for PE day. These personal skills are fundamental by P5 when our pupils venture to swimming at the Seven Towers Leisure Centre.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance will be closely monitored by the Welfare Officer this session. Any pupil who has attendance below 85% will be contacted. Please ring the school office before 9.15am if your child is going to be absent and it is imperative that absences are explained by way of written note upon return to school. An absence template can be found on the website.

Parents MUST NOT send their child to school if they display any Covid-19 symptoms. With the new variant currently on the increase, we will continue to monitor this situation closely.

We will be following the Public Health Agency advice in relation to schools. Pupils who become unwell during the school day may have their temperature checked using an I-R thermometer. Please ensure we have your latest mobile phone details on file as we may need them urgently in the days and weeks ahead.

THE ACADEMIC YEAR AHEAD

Buick staff have participated in innovative Mathletics, Core NI and Read, Write Training over the past week. We aim to provide new and exciting educational opportunities for your children. In order for our plans to be successful, we require partnership working and we would like to thank you in advance for your continued support as we approach the new school year with hope, enthusiasm and determination to give all children the best educational opportunities possible, in what will be, financially difficult times for school budgets across Northern Ireland.

Each teacher will send a Welcome Letter with details of PE days, topics and class specific information.

We look forward to seeing everybody on Tuesday 29th August at 8:45am!

Miss R Peters,
Acting Principal