

18th August 2022

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I hope you and your family have been enjoying a restful summer break. As we prepare to welcome our students and staff back to school in the coming days I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some updates and reminders.

You may have noticed lots of building activity around our school site during the summer break. The installation of our new modular buildings, to replace the existing "k" prefabricated building, is nearing completion. We are looking forward with great excitement to moving in the coming weeks to these impressive, state of the art facilities. We also warmly welcome the addition to Teaching & Learning at PCS of purpose-built specialist rooms, within the new building, where students joining our new ASD class will be based.

Access to the school site will continue to be restricted to pedestrians, cyclists and staff vehicles only. Drop off and/or collection of students is not permitted within the school grounds. We are very grateful for the overwhelming support that this traffic-free site initiative has received from parents since its introduction last year. The safety of all members of the school community using the site has improved as a result of this move.

Electric/motorised bikes or scooters are not permitted in the school grounds for health and safety reasons.

We continue to encourage students to walk, cycle or use public transport for their school journeys. Please be mindful of local residents' access if you are parking, however briefly, along neighbouring residential roads for school purposes. Traffic management measures including double yellow lines are in place and should be observed by all members of our school community.

The return schedule for each year group is below. Students should go directly to the assembly hall at the arrival time for their year group. Full school uniform including shoes (not runners) should be worn. Non- uniform jackets are not permitted. Students are expected to observe the School Appearance Policy in full at all times. Please refer to the policies section on the school website to avoid any confusion upon returning next week. We appreciate the ongoing support of parents in ensuring the continued high standards of uniform and appearance of our students.

Arising from consultation with the Parents Association, students and staff last term, we will be introducing a PE uniform across all year groups in the course of

the first half-term. The designs, as selected by the students, consist of a PE top and a choice of tracksuit bottoms as well as optional extra items e.g. shorts. Production and supply issues have delayed the availability of the PE top and bottoms. When we have confirmation of availability of the items to order we will update you. In the meantime we urge parents not to spend unnecessarily on expensive items of sportswear for school purposes. We hope that stock availability will enable all students to have purchased the PE top (€34.95-39.95 depending on size) and *one* of the options for P.E. trousers (also €35 approx-prices differ for each style) by the first day back after the mid-term break, on Monday 7th November. The P.E. uniform will offer a cost-effective and practical solution to escalating sportswear costs and peer pressure issues, as reflected in our discussions with all partners in our school community. Families for whom this change presents a financial challenge should, as always, contact the Principal in complete confidence.

Thursday 25th August	6th years	10.00am-11.30am
Friday 26th August	3rd years	9.00am - 10.30am
	1st years	10.30am - 12.00pm
	5th years	11.30am - 12.55pm
	2nd years	12.15pm- 12.55pm
Monday 29th August	Transition Years	9.00am - 10.30am
	1st year Wellbeing day	9.45am - 12.00pm
Tuesday 30th August	(no students attend)	
Wednesday 31st August	1st & 6th years	8.45am - 12.55pm
	Normal classes	
Thursday 1st September	All year groups	8.45am - 3.55pm
Friday 2nd September	All year groups	8.45am - 12.55am

Full timetable for all year groups commencing Monday 5th September

Payment for lockers and school journals is available through the payment system on the school administration system, VSWare, through the website as usual. Parents of incoming First Years will be advised on how to access the system next week. If needs be locker priority will be given to students who do not go home for lunch.

For the health of our school community, packed lunches should never include food that contains nuts of any kind, this includes Nutella and nutrition bars, Kinder Bueno etc Please check ingredients if in doubt. For healthy eating purposes we continue to ask that students do not bring fizzy drinks or energy drinks to school.

Finally, on a more personal note, I will be reverting to my family surname of Tobin going forward.

Wishing you and your families a lovely weekend and a positive start to the next academic year.

Kind regards,

Helen Tobin

Helen Tobin	Principal
David Clarke	Deputy Principal
Orla Molamphy	Deputy Principal
Elaine Moran	Deputy Principal