

2nd September 2022



Welcome back

We are so happy to see everyone!

We welcome everyone back to school for a new year, especially our new Nursery, Primary 1, S & L Unit children and Conan in Primary 4.

Some changes have happened:

Miss Coulter is now Mrs McElwee. Congratulations Mrs McElwee on your recent wedding.

David Lucas has joined the staff as Building & Cleaning Supervisor for the coming months until Jonny Martin returns. Jonny has undergone surgery and is now recovering. We all wish Jonny a speedy recovery.

Keeping COVID-19 and other infections out of school

All classrooms have been provided with air quality monitors so that we can be watchful about maintaining as **good ventilation** as possible;

The school day remains broken up by activities that take children and adults outside to **refresh the air** quality of their classrooms;

Supervised **handwashing and use of sanitiser** remains a regular practice throughout the day;

Large group gatherings for lengthy periods are kept to a minimum;

Visitors are welcome to school by appointment only, including parents;

If your child displays any symptoms of being unwell the named contacts you have provided, will be informed and asked to take them home.

As society returns to a more normal reality, we take our health advice from the NI Direct website.

Current Advice from the NI Direct website:

“Although **wearing a face covering** is no longer a legal requirement, they are still strongly recommended in indoor areas where you come into contact with people you do not usually meet.” **As the weather cools we respectfully ask that parents attending for any meeting wear a mask.**

“If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result, they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for **three days** after the day they took the test or from the day their symptoms started (whichever was earliest).”

“Children and young people who usually go to school [...] and who live with someone who has a positive coronavirus test result should continue to attend as normal.”

For further information, see <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-and-stay-home-advice>.

School Dinners

School dinners remain at the same price — **£2.60 per day**.

Dinner Money should be paid at the beginning of the week and with continued health & safety arrangements in a named sealed envelope.

Dinner menu is available on the website www.sionmillsps.com in the Parent Area, the Ticker Tape bar and Notices. We are currently on Week 1 (29/08/22)

Please Note: Free School Meals must be applied for each year. Apply on the EA website at

<https://www.eani.org.uk/>

Until the school is notified by the EA that your child/ren are entitled to Free School Meals, these must be paid for.

School Milk

Milk will be available from Monday 5th September. Only those who have already paid and informed their teacher will receive milk from Monday 5th. Milk costs 20p per day. Milk must be booked for a month, at least, and paid for in advance. Absent days cannot be refunded.

Milk September £3.80

October £4.00

With the start of term, we have been given leeway to add children for the week beginning 12th Sept. Please let your child/ren's teacher know by Wednesday morning (7th Sept.) if you wish your child to have milk in school. The cost for 3 weeks in September is £2.80, to be paid in advance. Thank you.

Morning Arrival at School

Health & Safety - Gates will be supervised from 8.45am until 9.05am. Only children attending Breakfast Club should be on the school grounds before 8.45a.m. *Staff will walk around the perimeter of the upper section of the school to ensure all P4 – P7 children have got into their classrooms safely.*

PLEASE NOTE

If supervisors have left their positions parents/carers must escort their child/ren to the main door to ensure they have entered the school safely. Older children who walk to school will be reminded by their teacher to also enter the building through the front door.

If your child is unable to attend due to illness or a medical appointment, a parent/carer must contact the school. You can do this by ringing the office on 028 8165 8249 or text to their class teacher on Seesaw

INFORMATION & CONSENT BOOKLET

Your children will have brought home an Information & Consent Booklet. There are many items to be brought to parents'/carers' attention at this time of year. To make this easier the regular items are contained in this booklet. **Please read it carefully and sign where requested before returning to your child's teacher.**

Key policies listed on page 7 are available on the school website (www.sionmillsps.com) in the 'Our School' Area. For anyone wishing to have a paper copy, these are available, on request, from the School