



September NEWS

Dear Parents

Firstly, I would like to thank you for supporting the school so well as we re-start following the summer holiday. We, as a staff team greatly appreciate the exceptional way that you have prepared the children and presented them for school. Be assured we never take this for granted; especially in these financially challenging times!

We extend a warm welcome to our new Nursery children and our Primary One fresh starts and trust that they will be very happy in our school!

Waringstown Primary School has traditionally very high standards of behaviour with good discipline, which the school actively promotes at all times in our children. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of the essential role which they play in fostering self-discipline and respect for authority. Children from an early age must be taught to listen carefully and respond positively to an instruction from a parent or a teacher. Responsibility for discipline rests with the parent, the teacher and the pupil collectively. Please support us as we promote these priorities from the start.

Each Key Stage will distribute a copy of our school rules drawn from the school's Positive Behaviour Policy. Please encourage your child to read these and help them to understand these rules as they are factors for effective learning and development.

NB Please ensure children are wearing non-branded track bottoms in line with our uniform policy.

Sincere thanks!

We wish to thank Mr D M'Kee (Premises Manager) and his Cleaning Team, who worked tirelessly to ensure the school was in such excellent order for our return in August. The school is spotless! Anyone who has friends or family associated with a school knows what the summer clean entails.

Welcome!

We are delighted to welcome Mrs E J Matthews to Primary 3 following Mrs J Matthews' retirement.



Over time, I have no doubt, that you will be able to welcome her as part of our school community.

Mrs Matthews is settling into Waringstown Primary School very well and is already a familiar face to our children who have made her feel most welcome.

8.50am Start Time

The earlier start time is well established and I thank you for having children in school on time. The additional teaching time in the morning is enhancing morning routines in class.



Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning / Friends of the Cancer Centre

This year we wish to host a Coffee Morning for parents, grandparents and supporters of the school in the Assembly Hall on the morning of Tuesday 22 October (8.45am – 11.30am). Why not aim to enjoy a coffee and a scone before work?

Primary 7 children will help to serve along with some of our school staff.



There will also be a coffee station with shortbread available in the mall each afternoon for those attending Parent / Teacher Interviews. **All welcome!**

All proceeds will be shared between Macmillan Cancer and Breast Cancer Now

Dogs in the school grounds

Please note that dogs, however small, should not be in the school grounds as some children are unsettled by their presence. A local school did have a **serious incident** involving a child and a dog several years ago and we do not wish this to occur in Waringstown Primary School. A number of parents have sought clarification on this point. Thank you for your co-operation.



This is a Health & Safety Notice on behalf of the school. We would also ask that you **DO NOT** allow children from outside your family to pet or stroke your dog!

School Website & Eduspot

The school website remains a vital tool for us to showcase the ongoing work in the Nursery and each of the Primary School classrooms.

The school Eduspot System is functioning normally. This is the main form of communication from school. Early in the year we know many parents in Nursery and P1 have to search for the QR code / invitation in their Junk email folder to ensure we have established home / school communication.

Central Office



The Central Office is located in the School Mall. This is where **ALL** visitors must report when arriving at school. **For Child Protection purposes, parents are not permitted access to corridors and classrooms at any point during the day.** Those of you with children attending a senior school will already know that you simply cannot walk straight into a school or arrive at a classroom door. The same protocol operates in the afternoon. Should the Office be unmanned simply wait at the Office until a member of staff comes to help you.

[The Mall doors and school access](#)

To safeguard the children our buzzer system is in operation outside the main porches. You can press the access button to gain entry to the school. We respectfully request that any parent visiting school to collect a child should report to the Office immediately. Please always park in the Visitors Car Park.

The area at the barrier is not for parking or drop-off.



[Mobile Phones & Digital Technology](#)

We know that the education minister has established clear protocols around the use of digital technology in schools. This mirrors our own policy that children should not have mobile phones in school; this includes smart watches! I also strongly urge you to hold back on purchasing mobile phones for senior pupils. It is a beneficial means of communication as children move to secondary education, however, very often it is not helpful at the Primary Stage. From time to time I am contacted and asked to sort out rows that have started online in various text groups or chats. **Please find attached a very useful guide stating the age restrictions on Apps at the end of this Newsletter.**

I remind you that children are NOT permitted mobile devices in school. This includes Apple watches etc. Please support the school as we adhere to our Digital Technology Policy.



[Harvest Assembly](#)

We intend to hold our School Harvest Assembly on Thursday 17 October. If you wish, please send an item from the Food Bank List in with your child on this day. We know the huge pressure being placed on ALL families at the present, so PLEASE do not feel any pressure from school for this event. However, we would like to celebrate the harvest season and help the Community Food Bank if possible. **Thank you!**



[Credit Union Presentation](#)

The school was delighted to receive a cheque from the Lurgan Credit Union this month thanks to your savings accounts. The children have clearly been saving over the past months and the school will direct the £300 cheque towards the purchase of new iPads and technology in school.

We are currently upgrading our iPads and seeking to refresh the old technology which as you can imagine goes out of date very quickly in a busy school!

Thank you for supporting the Credit Union Savings scheme.

Primary 7 London Residential

The London Residential trip is an extra expense and we, as a school, recognise that this can place an additional burden on families and households. I strongly urge you to open a Credit Union Savings Account which we operate in school. By setting aside some Birthday and Christmas gift money it is amazing how this Savings Account can be the London Account for your child once they reach Primary 7. I have been greatly heartened to have parents informing me that they had the London money set aside in such an account. There is no obligation on you to use the scheme; however, I would encourage you to consider opening an account via Mrs Morrow in the office.



Stranger Danger

All of our children receive information and specific rules about never going into cars / houses of strangers. We also teach children to follow the 3 W's:

Never go anywhere unless your parents know:

- 1 **Where** you are going,
- 2 **Who** you are going with and
- 3 **When** you will be back?

Parents are reminded to enforce this teaching at home and remember that no Primary School aged child should be left at home or be unsupervised at any time as it places them at risk.

Please ensure that your child knows the safe routines for walking home. It is vital that he / she knows who is collecting them from school. As we have several collection points it is **simply impossible for the staff to know** where your child should be ie at the Windsor Hill pedestrian gate or the Main Street collection point. It is very helpful if you have one 'steady' collection routine in place for the children in Primary 1 – 3 in particular, as this helps to form safe home-time procedures. It can be very distressing for a young child to be waiting in what turns out to be the wrong place!

1.50pm Home time

The 1.50pm home time is always a cause for concern as we have several collection points!

It is most helpful if **your child knows where you will be** for collection time.

Try and stand in the same place every day. It is very stressful for children and staff if you are collecting from various points or gates. In order to help safeguard the children, several Classroom Assistants will be on duty in pink fluorescent waistcoats. Mrs A Parker will, as usual, be on duty at the Windsor Hill pedestrian gate at 1.50pm. Staff will be on duty at the main school home path. Please note that in line with Education Authority guidelines staff may not step over our gate to 'manage' collections.



It is important that children should return to Classroom Assistants, Teaching Staff or indeed myself should they be unable to find you at home time. You will also be able to 'spot' the assistants easily and find your child due to the fluorescent pink waistcoats.

Primary 1 has a new collection point from within the Staff Car Park. Their pickup routines will be clearly communicated with them and we will be rehearsing this collection with parents towards the end of September. We respectfully ask that P2 & P3 parents no longer wait at the pedestrian gate. (See the attached map). The bridge area to our pedestrian gate is to be a 'parent free zone' where we can retain children safely, should parents be running late.

[Nursery / Windsor Hill / Windsor Lodge School Gate](#)

This gate will open at 8.45am and NOT before.

Please be aware that the above is purely a pedestrian gate for **residents of Windsor Hill**. For the health and safety of our children and all concerned we respectfully request that you do not 'drop off' or collect children via this gate. Children living in the Windsor Hill development may walk to school and walk home via this gate. It is vital that we maintain excellent relationships with the residents of Windsor Hill and your co-operation in this matter is deeply appreciated. Please note, as this is a pedestrian gate there will not be a patrol person on duty. However, a member of staff is present at the gate at 1.50pm and 3.00pm within the school grounds.

[Primary Walk & Linen Green](#)

Please be careful not to block the residents of Primary Walk in or out of their driveway. Parking is always at a premium in Main Street. However, the Primary Walk area is a cause for concern at drop off and collection times. The residents of Linen Green have again been in contact with the school to inform me that some lawns are actually being driven on by parents parking in the development to walk children into school. I ask that this stops.

[The School Driveway and Staff Car Park](#)

Parents are respectfully reminded that access via the main school driveway is restricted to staff only. NB There is NO DROP OFF facility within the school grounds nor the avenue beside the barrier! Nursery parents are reminded that they MUST park on the Main Street and walk up to collect their child / ren.

Children should under no circumstances walk up the driveway even with a parent. Children should not be 'dropped off' in the school grounds unless arriving late perhaps as a result of a Dental / Medical appointment. In this instance, parents should park in the Visitors Car Park and escort their child directly to the Office... NOT the classroom.

[Parent / Teacher Interviews](#)

Parent / Teacher Interviews will be offered in a blended fashion once again via the telephone or face to face.

Interview times and schedules will be issued once the responses have been collated. Please return the response pro-forma asap as this will enable us to timetable the interviews quickly.

Please note that if you choose a face-to-face interview, you will be given the specific day and time by the class teacher as we try and ensure all interviews fit within the school's global timetable.



Please complete and return the pro-forma which has already been emailed home.

During the week of Parent / Teacher Interviews children will leave between 12.30 and 12.45pm in a staggered fashion.

School Fund for Nursery & the Main School



School Fund remains a voluntary contribution at £25 / family or £15 / child. This fund may be paid via the payments section of Eduspot.

The Eduspot system is in operation and meals should be ordered **over the weekend**.

I would like to inform you that parents of a new start Nursery and Primary One child should by now have received a 'welcome' message from the school's Eduspot System. This is our cashless payment system which also enables us to email information directly to you.

It is much better for you to order your meals for the incoming week on the Friday evening as we know from experience the Eduspot Portal cannot cope with the Sunday evening bookings. This is not an issue with our website / our Eduspot. Rather, it is the actual UK wide website. We strongly recommend that you select your meals well **before Sunday evening** to avoid the 'crash' of the website.

Additional payments via Eduspot

P1 Book bags and Snack Fund can be paid via Eduspot.

P2 Snack Fund can be paid via Eduspot.

If at any time you require to order a book bag or a tie you may do so via the Eduspot Shop section.

School meals

A school dinner costs £2.60 / day or £13.00 / week.

Primary One children will stay for Dinner / Lunch from Monday 30 September onwards.

Primary One children remain in school to 1.50pm from Monday 30 September. The new collection point will also be in operation for P1 parents.

Each term's menu is posted on the school website.



Free School Meals (Assistance Forms)

Application Forms for assistance with Free School Meals and School Uniform are now available from the Education Authority website. Only parents in receipt of Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Pension Credit, Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance or Child Tax Credit are eligible to apply. It is very important to note that ALL PREVIOUS ENTITLEMENTS to free school meals expired on 30 June 2024.

No entitlements carry over to this school year.

Please re-apply!

Grapes in school

We had two serious choking incidents in school several years ago and the Education Authority released sensible advice that, particularly for young children, grapes should be quartered. Please ensure that grapes at Break and Lunch are cut if they are being sent into school. So many parents have carried this advice into their food preparation routines at home. Thank you for your co-operation as we seek to safeguard ALL of our children.

NUT FREE

Once again, we have a number of children in Nursery and main school who suffer from a severe allergy to all nuts. Children with this condition may have a severe reaction, which can prove VERY SERIOUS if they come into contact with nuts. Consequently, we request that NO PEANUTS or NUT RELATED PRODUCTS are brought into school for your child's break or packed lunch.

It is also our school policy that as many foods contain traces of nuts we do not permit children to swap or share food at Break or Lunch.

Please support us as we seek to safeguard the school community.



Extra-curricular (after school) Clubs (P5 – P7)

A detailed list of the extra-curricular clubs offered by my whole staff team are listed at the end of this Newsletter. On your behalf, I wish to thank the staff for this voluntary work which enriches the life of the school so much. Each teacher offers an extra-curricular club.



Asthma Register

The school's Asthma Register is being refreshed. Therefore, we ask that once again you complete the pro-forma enclosed (if you haven't done so already) in this newsletter if your child has recently been diagnosed as asthmatic. Please complete the asthma register form even if you have already done so on previous years.

Bees & Wasps

Please complete the enclosed pro-forma (if you haven't done so already) which seeks consent to use Anthisan Ointment and Jungle Formula Bite & Sting Spray. The school grounds are troubled with a large amount of wasps and already this month we have had several children suffering from stings! It is important to treat a sting fast. Therefore, these consent forms are vital.



Homework / Reading

Class teachers are heartened by the fact that parents take an active interest in their children's schoolwork. **Please initial all homework and encourage good presentation.** It is essential that books used at home should be 'backed' and that all pencils, rubbers, lunchboxes, clothing etc. should be clearly labelled to help preserve their 'shelf life'. We respectfully ask that you do not stick tape to the book cover and please refrain from marking Reading Books to emphasise certain words.

Winter flu vaccinations

The winter flu vaccination forms have already been sent home. The completed response forms should have been returned to school by now to enable the Nursing Team to prepare for the vaccination programme.

Winter flu vaccination / nasal spray is scheduled for **Monday 04 November.**

Absence Notes

Enclosed within this information sheet are two sheets of absence notes to make it more convenient for parents when signing for a child's absence. The child should bring the note on their return to school to the Class Teacher. Additional sheets, if and when required, are available to download from Resources tab of the school website.

School Holiday List

Please find a full holiday list for the academic year at the end of this newsletter.

School Uniform

Please label every item of clothing. There is already a large quantity of lost property being regularly displayed in Morning Assembly. As yet, we have no-one claiming ownership. This must be just as frustrating for you, as it is for us, as we know the cost of uniforms!

Finally, be assured that the staff and I appreciate your continued support in all school matters. We are greatly encouraged by the way you have prepared the children for the new term.

Thank you!



(Principal)

C M°Cambley

Child Protection Team

WPS Nursery Unit	Foundation Stage (Primary 1 & 2)	Key Stage One (Primary 3 & 4)	Key Stage Two (Primary 5 - 7)	Principal
Mrs C Emerson (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection)	Mrs J Brown (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection)	Mr M Gault (Designated Teacher for Child Protection)	Mrs J Peacocke (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection)	Mr C M°Cambley (Member of the Child Protection Team)

Child Protection Governors

Mr T M°Kay	Mrs H Wan
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Asthma Register ... Child's name _____ Class teacher: _____

My child has been diagnosed as suffering from asthma. I would like to add their name to the school's Asthma Register. I will provide a spare inhaler for the school asap.

May's Attendance ... 96.5%
June's Attendance ... 95.2%



Please complete the entire page and return to school immediately if you have not already done so.

Asthma Register

1/ My child has an asthmatic inhaler (one provided to school) and I would like them to be included in Waringstown Primary School's Asthma Register:

Yes (Move to No 2)

No (Please sign and date)

Parental Signature: _____

Date: _____

2/ I grant permission for the school to administer the spare inhaler in the case of an emergency **(ONLY TO BE FILLED IN IF YOU TICKED YES TO QUESTION 1)**

Yes

No

Parental Signature: _____

Date: _____

Anthisan Ointment & Jungle Formula Bite and Sting Spray

I give permission for Anthisan Ointment or Jungle Formula Bite & Sting Spray to be used in the event of a sting.

Parental Signature: _____

Date: _____

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EpiPen / Autoinjector

I wish to inform / remind the school that my child holds an EpiPen. I have provided an 'in date' pen to the class teacher for return to school in August 2024.

Parental Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please note the Absence Notes are available for download from the Resources Section of the School Website. Click Resources, Downloads & Forms.

WARINGSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Absence Note

Pupil Name: _____ Class: _____

Date (s) of absence: _____

Date of return to school: _____

Reason for absence: _____

Signed: _____ (Parent / Guardian) Date: _____

WARINGSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Absence Note

Pupil Name: _____ Class: _____

Date (s) of absence: _____

Date of return to school: _____

Reason for absence: _____

Signed: _____ (Parent / Guardian) Date: _____

WARINGSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Absence Note

Pupil Name: _____ Class: _____

Date (s) of absence: _____

Date of return to school: _____

Reason for absence: _____

Signed: _____ (Parent/Guardian) Date: _____

Waringstown Primary School

SCHOOL CLOSURE/HOLIDAYS 2024 / 2025



AUTUMN TERM COMMENCES	Tuesday 27 August and Wednesday 28 August 2024 School finishes at 12:45pm on these two days Staggered departures from 12.30pm.
	Full School Day resumes on Thursday 29 August 2024 at 9:00am (Packed lunches required Thurs 29 Aug & Fri 30 Aug)
PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS	21 - 24 October 2024 (School closes for all pupils at 12:45pm) Staggered departures from 12.30pm.
	Friday 25 October 2024 (School closes for all pupils at 12:45pm for the Half Term) Staggered departures from 12.30pm.
HALF TERM	28 October - 01 November 2024 Inclusive School reopens Monday 04 November 2024
CHRISTMAS	School closes 12 noon on 20 December 2024 for the Christmas Holidays as below. Staggered departures from 11.45am. Monday 23 December to Friday 03 January 2025 Inc
SPRING TERM COMMENCES	Monday 06 January 2025
PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS	03 - 06 February 2025 (School closes for all pupils at 12:45pm) Staggered departures from 12.30pm.
	Friday 07 February 2025 (School closes for all pupils at 12:45pm for the Mid Term) Staggered departures from 12.30pm.
HALF TERM	10 February - 14 February 2025 Inclusive (School re-opens Monday 17 February 2025)
ST PATRICK'S DAY	Monday 17 March 2025
EASTER	Friday 11 April - School closes 12 noon - Two weeks for the Easter Holidays Monday 14 April - Friday 25 April Inclusive Staggered departures from 11.45am.
SUMMER TERM COMMENCES	Monday 28 April 2025
MAY DAY & STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY	Monday 05 May 2025 Tuesday 06 May 2025
SPRING BANK HOLIDAY	Monday 26 May 2025
SCHOOL TERM ENDS	School closes 12 noon on Friday 27 June 2025 Staggered departures from 11.45am.

Extra-Curricular (P5 - P7)

Term One (2024)



7 weeks of extra-curricular activities:

Week 1	wb	Mon 30 September	Week 4	wb	Mon 04 November
Week 2	wb	Mon 07 October	Week 5	wb	Mon 11 November
Week 3	wb	Mon 14 October	Week 6	wb	Mon 18 November
wb		Mon 21 Oct No clubs (PTI)	Week 7	wb	Mon 25 November
wb		Mon 28 Oct No clubs (half-term)			

ALL after-school clubs finish at 3.55pm.

Day	Club	Staff / Leaders
Monday	Scripture Union <i>(P4 may attend this Club)</i>	Mrs EJ Matthews & Mrs C Munce
Tuesday	Hockey (P6 & P7 girls) Hockey (P5 girls)	Mrs J McElhinney Mrs S Anderson Mrs J Peacocke
Tuesday	Computer Club (Primary 5)	Mrs K McConville Mrs S Williamson
Tuesday	Gardening Club	Mrs J Erskine Mrs J Humphreys
Wednesday	P5 Boys' Football P6 / P7 Boys' Football	Mr D M ^c Kee & Miss L Mahaffy Mr A Mitchell & Mrs J Boyce

NB Senior Choir will NOT rehearse after school this term!

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Extra-curricular Consent (To be completed by parents of P4 – P7 children)

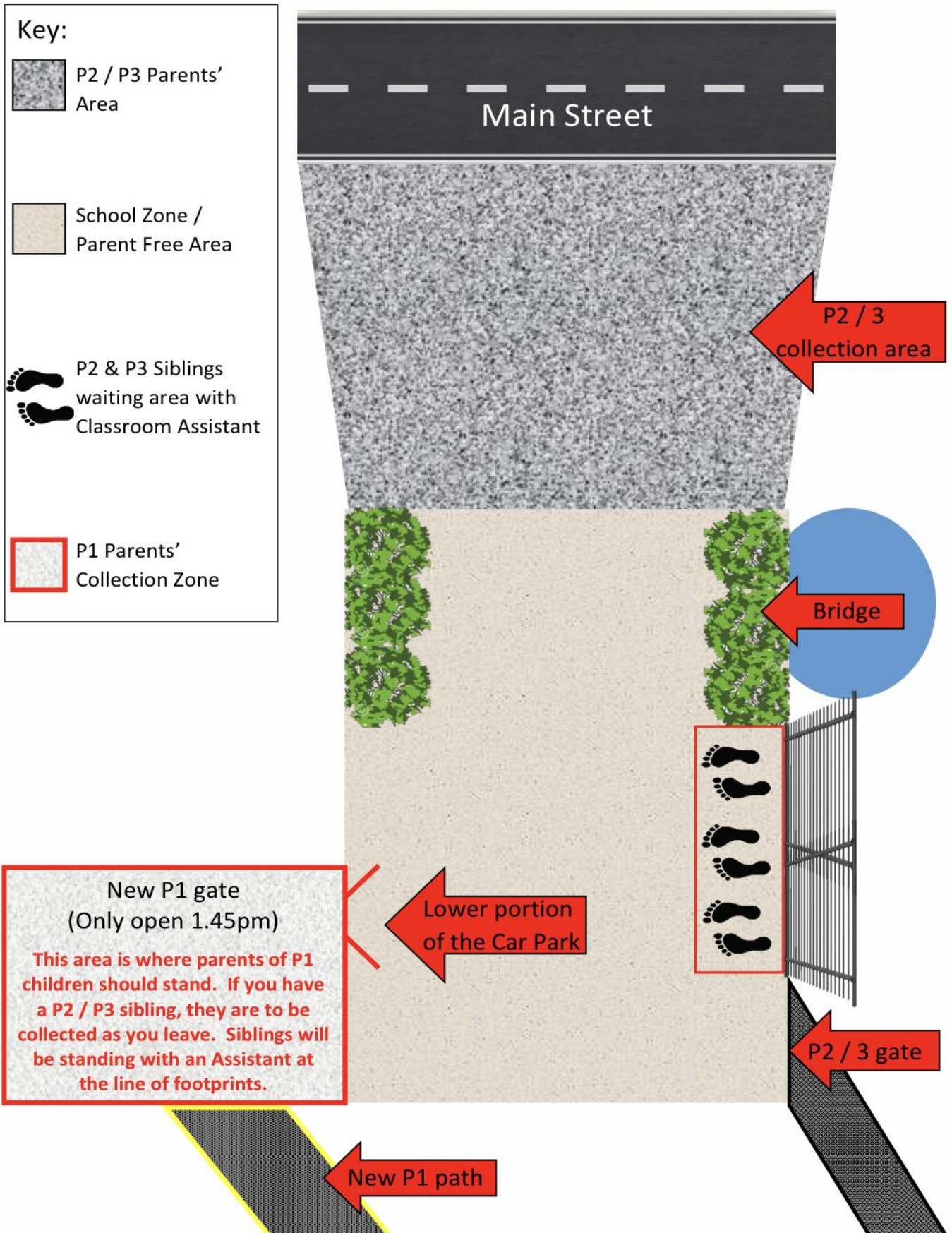
I give permission for my child / ren to stay for extra-curricular activities this year.
We strongly encourage you to sign the form even if, initially, your child may not wish to stay for clubs!

PRINT Child's name: _____

Parental Signature: _____

Date: _____

New Collection Routine - Waringstown Primary School P1, P2 and P3



SCHOOL BUILDING