



Dear Parents/ Guardians,

21st August 2020

I hope this note finds you all well and that you all had a lovely summer. This document is sharing some of what we are doing to ensure a smoothly run, safe school during Covid-19 times. Please read this document and I will send another update at the end of next week. We are all a tad apprehensive but we are in this together so let's do our best for the children in our lives.

Covid-19 presents a threat to us and is a **hazard**. The efforts we are making is in an attempt to minimize the risk of contracting Covid-19. No one can assert that there is no risk. We are trying to minimize it. If infection is not introduced it cannot be spread. Please make sure your child is covid free as best you can. Do Not send your child to school if they experience the Covid 19 symptoms.

Remember TIME EXPOSED plus PROXIMITY is important.

It is extremely important that the needs and safety of the pupils are paramount in all our endeavours. They are not immune to the disease nor are they immune to the misinformation, upset and uncertainty surrounding us. We are trying to be safe and calm in the school. The more you prepare them for the restrictions, the better for us all.

Pupils are back in school on Monday 31st August.

Morning: (Between 08.45 and 09.10) Entrance to the school grounds for pedestrians should be along our Pedestrian route and Exit for pedestrians should be through School Gates (ONE WAY). In week one Learning Support Teachers will attend entrance doors from 08.45 with Class teachers attending at their own rooms. Pupils will enter the building in separate doors and locate their room with their teacher at the door.

5th, 6th entering at the entrance near the gate and special classes. (Usual Entrance for these classes)

6th Class from 08.45 to 08.55 and 5th classes 08.55 to 09.05

2nd, 3rd classes entering near the school Garden (Usual Entrance for these classes)

3rd Class from 08.45 to 08.55 and 2nd classes 08.55 to 09.05

Senior Infants, 1st and 4th classes enter by the front door.

4th Class 08.45 to 08.55 (Front Left Door) First Class 08.45 to 08.55 (Right Front Door)

Senior Infants (Right Front Door) 08.55 to 09.05

Staff will be on hand to direct the pupils and class teachers at the door to receive them and allocate their seats.

Formal classes start at 09.10 as before. Pupils won't line up in the morning. Please make sure that your child does not present for school too early as this poses huge logistical issues.

We are asking parents to **Drop off their children in the Correct Drop off Zone between 08.45 and 09.10 and leave.** Please do not congregate outside. No person who doesn't work in the school is to enter the school except by prior appointment and must wear a face covering. (A detailed tracing form must be filled out upon entry to the school by visitors by prior permission)

Time-table for Junior Infants

Entrance to Junior Infant classes is from the rear of the school.

Monday 31st of August 2020:

Children are given an allocated 15-minute time slot to come into room in pods of 6/7. They can stay with parents, have a look around the room and meet their teacher. (Only one parent per child and parents wearing face coverings.) **We will contact parents next week sharing their times**

Tuesday, 1st of September 2020:



Class will be split into two pods; half the children enter room for example at 10.30 and leave before 11 and then the other half enter at 11 and leave at 11.30. Children will be encouraged to stay in room for half hour without parents, however if child is very upset it's ok that he/she leave with parent.

Wednesday, 2nd of September 2020:

Children will be dropped to room at allocated time and hopefully will be comfortable to stay with teacher for hour without parent. Ideally, teacher will meet parent at door and child will enter room by themselves.



Classrooms: We will have classrooms laid out according to the DES recommendation and I attach a photo of a senior class with the DES measurements. Each Classroom is considered to be a bubble and within this bubble there are some Pods. Pupils should remain within these pods as much as possible. The usual lunch boxes are fine but should be washed daily.

Staff have face coverings and face shields available and may wear them if appropriate. Face covering for those under 13 is not recommended. We are looking at the Czech model ... my face covering protects you. Your face covering protects me.

We are looking at two separate little breaks and two separate big breaks to minimize risk. These will be looked at in due course. A consequence of this will be restricted Gate opening times – Closed from 10 to 13.20

The School gates will be closed for extended times

Swimming is not featuring in our proposals until at least 2021.

While paper towels are provided, pupils might do well to bring in their own small hand-towels/ face-cloths to be used and washed each day.

Every staff member will have a bottle of cleaning agent and a cloth and there will be Hand Sanitiser dispensers at entrances and in each classroom. Refills of Soap, Paper towels and Hand Sanitiser are in storage. Cleaners and caretakers will be carrying out additional cleaning duties.

We have a Covid-19 Policy Statement. The Policy Statement will be on the website from next week under Policies.

Parents are asked to communicate by note/ homework notebook/ Edmodo etc and not accost teachers in yard.

A Special Covid Room, for any suspected case, has been set up. If a suspect case arises, parents will be informed and the child will remain in the Covid Room awaiting collection. Advice will be sought from HSE and we have two contact numbers to contact. Confidentiality is respected and “bubbles” may be informed. We will follow HSE advice.

Tracksuits may be worn on PE days and the full uniform is required for all other days. It is best to change clothes when reaching home. <http://www.rte.ie/news/2020/0813/1158958-covid19-coronavirus-schools/>

Please make sure to return all **Outstanding Rental Books** on the first day of school. Please also **bring in all books clearly labelled**. Decisions re appropriate homework will be made when we have settled in.

Only 5th and 6th classes will have access to basketball court during September.



Ms. Glynn has cropped the handwashing technique and hand sanitiser technique sections of the teacher video to share with the school community prior to the 31st so correct technique is practiced at home before coming into the school building. The two videos can be found here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1B2PxB_tS-i64TIMwA1sqRQwU7x7DkZlp

End of Day: Exit from the school grounds for pedestrians should be along our Pedestrian route. (One Way)

To date, the children are well practiced in emergency evacuation procedures and I feel they have managed excellently in the past and are cool and calm moving about. **Ms. Reynolds' Senior Infants** will be discharged from the left front door. **Mrs. Christian's Senior Infants** will be discharged from the right front door and **Mr. Bourke's Senior Infants** will be discharged from Yellow Line 11 at 13.40.

1st, 2nd, 3rd classes will be brought to the Yellow line (Line 11.)(See image below) Classes will be discharged in bubbles.

Pupils on Public transport will be discharged 5 mins earlier each day.



At all times, we need to respect the social distancing as advised. More information on gov.ie/backtoschool

We all need to work together to ensure a smooth, safe and uncontroversial return to school.

Consider that everyone has Covid-19 and that you might have it too. Stay safe and I'll be in touch.

I'll be in touch next week with any updates.

Stay calm and reassure your children.

Kind regards, Brendan Kelleher