



Dear Parents/ Guardians,

28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

I hope you are still well and looking forward to some semblance of normality. We are all busily preparing for the year ahead. This document is sharing updates of what we are doing to ensure a smoothly run, safe school during Covid-19 times. I will send updates of any changes and as you all know this situation is evolving. Please bear with us.

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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-19 free as best you can. **Do Not** send your child to school if they experience the Covid 19 symptoms.

Regular and good hand hygiene; Good respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette; Enhanced cleaning regimes; and Maintaining physical distancing in and out of the classrooms are measures being taken.

All staff have undertaken training from the DES and HSE. The Board of Management have been proactive in supporting all our endeavours.

Pupils are back in school on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August.

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**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.

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

6<sup>th</sup> Class from 08.45 to 08.55 and 5<sup>th</sup> classes 08.55 to 09.05

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Class from 08.45 to 08.55 and 2<sup>nd</sup> classes 08.55 to 09.05

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Senior Infants, 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> classes enter by the front door.

4<sup>th</sup> 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

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Staff will be on hand to direct the pupils and class teachers at the door to receive them and allocate their seats. Children will be asked to either wash their hands or sanitise their hands in the classroom upon entry.

- 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 at any time. 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. Keep to the right and follow the route along.

**No lunches for first week for Junior Infants**



Please leave school bags at home until Wednesday. Please see website for timetable that you were emailed separately. **We will monitor the situation and email you with week 2 schedule.** We are trying to remain safe and practical.

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- **Classrooms:** We will have classrooms laid out according to the DES recommendation. **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. NO SHARING of pens, food, erasers. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD HAS WHAT THEY NEED. The usual lunch boxes are fine but should be washed daily.

We are looking at the Czech model ... my face covering protects you. Your face covering protects me.

- Parents might note the challenges presented to the school by Dropping lunches in late for the pupils as well as the usual interruptions caused to the class.

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 10 to 13.20**

- 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. Many children are experienced and now have their own sanitiser. Children will not be asked to wear or remove face coverings. If a child chooses to wear a face covering, please make it a plain one.

Sharing of pencils etc cannot take place so please ensure your child has what they need.

- We have a Covid-19 Policy Statement. The Policy Statement is on the website under Policies. We have and **All Things Covid** folder on our website also

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 “pods” or “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.** Priority is for Rental Books to be returned first. Decisions re appropriate homework will be made when we have settled in.

Only 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 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](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 - all at 13.40.

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://gov.ie/backtoschool)



**Travel from abroad**

Government policy, which is based on official public health advice, continues to advise against non-essential travel overseas for everyone.

It is a requirement for anyone coming into Ireland, from locations other than those with a rating of ‘normal precautions’ (“green”), to restrict their movements for 14 days, and this includes school staff, parents and children or other students coming from abroad to attend school in Ireland. Restricting your movements means staying

indoors in one location and avoiding contact with other people and social situations as much as possible.

The school has a duty of care to all of its pupils and staff members. If a school has reasonable grounds for believing that its duty of care toward its staff and pupils is being undermined in circumstances where a person – staff member or pupil - has not observed the mandatory requirement to restrict movements for 14 days following return from a non-green list country, it is reasonable for the school to refuse access to the pupil or staff member during this period.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/389bd-topics-being-raised-on-the-back-to-school-helpline/#travel-abroad>

View the COVID-19 Green List From [Department of the Taoiseach](http://Department of the Taoiseach) Published at: 23 July 2020 Last updated 21 August 2020

Travel to a very limited set of locations is exempted from this advice. Individuals arriving into Ireland from these locations will not be requested to restrict their movements upon entry. These locations currently have a ‘normal precautions’ (“green”) security status rating. As of 4 August 2020, these locations are:

Estonia Finland Greece Greenland Hungary Italy Latvia Lithuania Norway Slovakia

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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. . Mr. Gallagher has kindly done out a map (also on website ) at the end of this document sharing entrances.

**I’ll be in touch next week with any updates**

Stay calm and reassure your children.

Kind regards, Brendan Kelleher 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020



## F.A.Q.s kindly shared by the Parents' Association

**Can Children with bikes/scooters use the cycle lane rather than clogging up the pedestrian walkway?**

Yes

**Do you bring all books to school?** At the beginning we would like to focus on getting the Scoil Bhríde Rental books returned. Please concentrate on that because we have thousands of euros' worth of books outstanding.

**Do the rules change in the car park?** No. When alighting from car please join the pedestrian flow. Info on parking on the website. Be kind and safe. Reverse in to space Drive out. Don't leave engine idling. Don't block anybody.

**Are there fewer spaces in the car park?** No. Still 82.

**Is it ok to wait in my car if my kids are in at different times?** Staggered times are trying to flatten the congestion curve. Please send your children in as soon as. We want to leave spaces for later arrivals.

**I have kids at different times do I walk out and around to come back in for the different times?** No. Send the children in from 08.45.

**My 6th year student brings his 4th class brother to school does he have to go out and around?** Children should only enter the building by the agreed door.

**Is the library open?** Not yet but we have our best people working on it.

**Why isn't finish time staggered?** In the morning we have 24 mainstream classes arriving. At 2.40 we have 18. On balance, it could present more problems than it solves with pupils waiting for peers etc. We are relying on everyone working together. There is huge disruption already with staggered breaks and Bubble Yards.

**Do children need to bring their own sanitiser?** They don't need to but it probably is a good idea. Many children are used to using it during GAA camps etc. We may review this.

**Do 6th class need to wear masks?** At the moment there is no recommendation from the HSE for those under 13 to wear face coverings. If it changes, we will let you know.

**What happens if there is a confirmed case, are the parents of that class notified?** If there is a confirmed case, we will follow the direction of the HSE which appears to be contacting the parents of the pupils of the ill pupils' immediate Pod. The HSE will direct us what to do and we will do it. Confidentiality is of great importance for all.

**Will pupils have homework?** It is unlikely that homework will be a part of things initially but we want to assess how things run before giving a definitive answer. Risks seem to higher sharing materials rather than bringing stuff in or back.

**Bringing books home unnecessarily?** Priority is not sharing within the classroom/ school as opposed to home/school link

**Are school bags allowed?** Yes. Please bring lunches too.

**My child permanently has a cough, what do I do?** If in doubt ring your child's doctor for free, seek advice and inform the teacher by journal. Many children have this and a cough alone is not indicative of Covid 19.



**Is there temperature checking in the school?** Not as a rule. It is not seen as a reliable indicator of Covid-19. We have purchased no-contact thermometers that might help inform parents of child's condition.

**Are there enough substitute teachers?** I'm not sure yet. There weren't enough last year nor the year before.

**If a class/pod is sent home and needs to quarantine will they be supported with Edmodo, online learning, Zoom etc?** Yes. I can't say exactly what app and we do need to know that the absence is mandated.

**Will support classes be available?** Yes. We have support teachers in this school as before.

**Can classes play together or do they need to play in their pods?** Classes (Bubbles) can play together outside and must wash their hands upon returning to the class.

**Are yard times staggered?** We have two separate "little breaks" and two separate "big breaks".

**Will PE still go ahead?** Yes – preferably outdoors. GAA and Soccer etc. are still running.

**If my child does not attend school will they supported by Edmodo/online learning/issued homework?** If your child is in the *very high risk* category - yes.

**Will there be a graduation night for last year's 6th class?** We are still hopeful that we can hold a graduation ceremony with Prayer Service, Slideshow and medals in September or October.

**How are buses managed with the staggered times?** In the morning from 08.45, the pupils may enter the school building and we will discharge pupils 5 mins early to enable social seating on the bus from 14.35 . Dropping off on roundabout is still prohibited.

