



17th August 2020

Dear parents/guardians,

Our school return date remains the same- Thursday, 27th of August.

We are continuing work to ensure that all necessary precautions are in place for a safe return to school.

The safe reopening of school will require the co-operation of all members of our School Community. We will all need to play our part in ensuring that re-opening of the school is done in a safe manner which prevents the spread of the virus and allows the vital work of Teaching and Learning to proceed with as little disruption as possible. Where pupils are unwell, have symptoms of COVID, or have been in close contact with a suspected case of COVID, it is essential that they remain at home. Further information on COVID-19 symptoms in children is available at:

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/if-your-child-has-symptoms.html>

As outlined in last week's letter, classrooms are being re-configured to maximise physical distance. Where practical, children will be organised into pods within their bubble. A pod is a discrete group of children (normally 4 – 6) who will sit together and stay in their pod while in the bubble, or classroom.

Generally speaking, the objective is to limit contact and sharing of common facilities between people in different class bubbles (and pods within those class bubbles) as much as possible, rather than to avoid all contact between pods, as the latter will not always be possible.

Classes (bubbles) will have different mid-morning and lunch-time access to the yard to help decrease the potential for children from different bubbles to interact.

We will be operating separate assembly points and entrance/exit doors, in the morning and at hometime, for the same reason. We will be providing further details, this week.

Books and essentials



Many thanks to our new book rental committee for all their hard work and support with the launch of the book rental scheme for 3<sup>rd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> class this year. Pupil books will remain in book folders, to minimise the mixing of books in class.

Pupils are asked to leave their pencil case in school each day and to use a second pencil case/pencils/pens when at home.

To minimise the sharing of items, pupils should have their own colours/pencils/ ruler, glue etc.

We kindly ask that all children have in their school bag a small reusable bag (eg ziplock bag) to hold a packet of tissues, and if you wish, a small hand sanitiser; however hand sanitiser will be available throughout the school.



Green List” & returning from abroad Children who have travelled from countries not on the Green List should not attend school during the 14-day self-isolation period. Please note that this is an evolving list.

Face coverings: It is now recommended that teachers and other school staff wear face coverings, similar to those worn in shops or on public transport, when a physical distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. Presently, primary school children are not required to wear face coverings.

After- school clubs: There can be no after school’s clubs in operation. The Board of Management will keep this under review, in line with government and public health advice.

Other arrangements: All staff will undertake and complete Covid-19 Induction Training prior to returning to school

Arrangement for necessary visitors such as contractors and parents/guardians will be restricted to essential purposes only and limited to those who have obtained prior approval from the Principal.

We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Thursday 27th August, and will be in touch again soon.

With kind regards,

Natasha Bassett

(Principal)