

12th August, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are currently working on upgrading our procedures and routines within the school to ensure that there is as much Physical Distancing as is possible in our building. We will apply physical distancing in a practical and sensible way.

Physical Distancing will be achieved in two ways:

Increasing Separation. This will be achieved by re-configuring the classrooms to maximise physical distancing. Each class will be referred to as a bubble and we will ensure that there is as little contact as possible between children in different bubbles. Staff will be assigned to specific bubbles and work with this bubble only.

Decreasing Interaction. This will be achieved by decreasing the potential for children from different bubbles to interact. There will be specific routes for various bubbles to enter and exit the school and to access their classrooms. Bubbles will have different mid-morning and lunch-time access to the playground. We will make these routines enjoyable activities for the children, emphasising safety at all times.

While all children will be welcome back to school, we would remind parents that, where children are displaying elevated temperatures, colds, coughs or flu like symptoms, they should not be sent to school. Children who display such symptoms in school will be isolated and parents asked to collect them from the school.

Children who have travelled from countries not on the Green List should not attend school during the 14-day self-isolation period

Further information on COVID-19 symptoms in children is available at: -
<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/if-your-child-has-symptoms.html>

Teachers will work with the children to ensure they are aware of the proper hygiene procedures regarding hand washing and etiquette related to sneezing, coughing or spitting. We would be grateful if you could also emphasise safe behaviour in this regard to your children at home as part of the preparation for returning to school.

The plan for reopening is as follows. We will update you further, closer to the time, on the necessary specifics.

Induction Days for Infants and Language Classes

- There will be a short induction for all **new Language Class** pupils on **Monday 24th**, where children will be shown to their classroom and meet their new teacher. We will communicate more details to you on this closer to the date.
- There will be a short induction for **Senior Infants** on **Thursday 27th**, where children will be shown to their classroom and meet their new teacher. We will communicate more details to you on this closer to the date.

- There will be a short induction for **Junior Infants** on **Friday 28th**, where children will be shown to their classroom and meet their new teacher. We will communicate more details to you on this closer to the date.

The Planned Dates for Re-Opening

- On **Monday, 31st August** Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1st and 2nd class will return to school.
- On **Tuesday, 1st September**: 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and all 3 special classes will return to school also.
- **Junior Infants** will go home at **12 noon** for the first 2 weeks.
- **Senior Infants** will go home at **2.00pm** every day.

We will have 3 staggered start times:

Classes	Start time	Home time
4 th , 5 th and 6 th	8.50am	2.30pm
1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd	9.00am	2.40pm
Junior Infants, Senior Infants and all 3 Special Classes	9.10am	Junior Infants 1.20pm Senior Infants 2.00pm

What if you have more than one child attending school?

A plan will be put in place to allow siblings come together at their eldest sibling's start time. This will involve staff supervision from 8.50am. The office will send you a text with all the drop off and pick up information you need closer to the time. All siblings from 1st to 6th will go home together at the same time also.

Our aim remains to re-open the school in an orderly safe manner, while reassuring the children and making them feel comfortable, safe and relaxed with their friends in the new school environment. This will be achieved by all of us working towards this common goal.

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Finbarr Hurley

Principal