

{1} When will my child start back to school?

All children in all classes will be starting back to school on Friday 28th August. All classes will be in school every day for the full school day i.e. 8:50-1:30 Junior and Senior Infants, 8:50-2:30 1st - 6th.

{2} Are arrival times staggered?

Yes, the school gates will open as normal at 8:50 and they will remain open until 9:10. Your child can arrive at school any time within these 20 minutes and will walk directly to their classroom. All gates will close at 9:10.

{3} What if I arrive late to school?

The only access to the school after 9:10 will be via the church gate. Children will have to go to the front door of the school where the secretary's office is located. Only 1 child/family will be allowed into the school at a time to ensure children from different classes do not have contact. Please ensure you adhere to social distancing rules while waiting for your child to be admitted into the school.

{4} What time will my child's school day finish?

Pupils in all classes will have a staggered finish in order to reduce congestion and ensure social distancing at the school gates. Please note your child's dismissal time below:

Junior Infants: 1:25

Senior Infants 1:30

5th & 6th Classes: 2:25

3rd & 4th Classes: 2:30

1st & 2nd Classes: 2:35

{5} Where do I drop and collect my child?

Due to government guidelines, we are obliged to minimise congestion at school gates. Therefore, each class is assigned a particular gate & door to enter and exit the school. Please take note of your child's gate number, as they will not be allowed enter via a different gate. The gates will be numbered 1-4 and staff will be on the gates directing children to their classes.

Gate 1: {church gate}

Rooms 19,20,21,22,11,12,13,14.

Gate 2: {gate nearest staff car-park}

Rooms 1,2,3.

Gate 3: {middle gate at the front of school}

Rooms 4,5,6.

Gate 4: {lower gate near the school yard}

Rooms 7,8,9,10.

{6} Can my child play in the yard with friends from other classes?

Each bubble {i.e. class} will be allowed to play with their own classmates but won't be allowed to mix with children in other classes, as per government guidelines.

The school yard will be divided up into 6 zones at play time. Break times will be staggered to ensure social distancing at lunch times both between classes and between staff members. There will only be 6 classes on the yard at any one break.

{7} Will my child be wearing their school uniform?

Despite the talk on social media recently regarding uniforms, there are no references to amending the school uniform policy in the government guidelines. Therefore, your child will be expected to wear their full school uniform as normal and their school tracksuit on designated PE days. Just a reminder that, from this year, Junior and Senior Infants will be wearing their school tracksuit every day.

{8} Will the staff be wearing face coverings?

Due to the most recent government guidelines on face coverings, it is recommended that teachers and SNAs who cannot maintain a 2m distance from their pupils wear a face covering. Class teachers, while teaching from the top of their class and standing 2m from the children, will not need to wear a face covering. However, once they move from this position, a face covering is recommended. It is envisaged that SET teachers and SNAs will wear a face covering at all times due to the close proximity between them and their pupils.

{9} Will the pupils be wearing face coverings?

Children under 13 are not expected to wear face coverings as per the guidelines.

{10} What procedures are in place for hand hygiene throughout the school?

Over the summer break, a hot water system was installed in each classroom for hand-washing purposes. There will be hand-sanitising stations outside each classroom as well as at each entrance/exit.

Children will perform hand hygiene regularly throughout the school day:

- **On arrival at school i.e. on entry to the classroom**
- **Before eating or drinking**
- **After using the toilet**
- **After a cough or a sneeze**
- **After playing outdoors**
- **When hands are physically soiled**

{11} Will my child be expected to social distance from others throughout the school day?

As per government guidelines, children in classes from Junior Infants – 2nd Class do not need to physical distance. However, the class will be arranged into groups called ‘pods’ and these pods will range in size from 4-6 children. Where possible, there will be a 1m distance maintained between pods. Each pod will have their own set of equipment and toys. Equipment will not be shared between pods without being thoroughly cleaned first.

Pupils from 3rd – 6th have to keep a 1m distance from each other in the classroom. Each child will be encouraged to have their own educational materials and are **not** to be shared between pupils. Any shared classroom resources will be thoroughly cleaned between uses.

{12} Will my child be getting homework?

Yes the pupils will be getting homework. They will not have written homework for the month of September, in order to help minimise the movement of school materials between home and school. The children will have, where applicable, reading, spellings and tables homework. Again, to minimise the movement of school materials between home and school, table books and spellings will stay at home. We would appreciate it if you would also have spare pencils and colours at home, as pencil cases will need to be kept in school.

{13} Can I accompany my child into their classroom/the school building?

Parents will not be allowed into the school building without an appointment, as per the government guidelines. Parents are expected to let their child walk in to school on their own from their designated gate. {Junior Infants will be an exception to this in the initial days. Further info regarding this will be communicated in the coming days.} There will be staff at each gate

directing the children where to go. We encourage parents to contact their child's teacher or the principal, either through the school app or by email. We will notify you of the email address for your child's teacher in the coming days.

{14} What are the procedures in place in the school for suspected Cases of COVID 19?

Symptoms of Covid 19:

- High temperature
- Cough
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Loss of taste or smell, or distortion of taste

Children should not attend school if they show any of the symptoms above that cannot be explained by another illness.

If anyone becomes unwell with symptoms of Covid 19 while at school, they will be brought to the isolation room {across from strong room} and given a mask to wear. Parents will be contacted to collect the child as soon as possible. The HSE will inform any parents of children who have come into close contact with a diagnosed case. All follow-up cleaning, paperwork etc will be carried out after the person leaves.

PLEASE ENSURE THE CONTACT DETAILS THAT WE HAVE FOR YOU ARE UP TO DATE. PLEASE NOTIFY US OF CHANGES TO THESE DETAILS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.