



24th August 2020 (B)

Dear Parents,

RE: Physical Distancing and Safe School Attendance

We have put in place procedures and routines within the school to ensure that there is as much Physical Distancing as possible in our building. We will apply physical distancing in a practical and sensible way, recognising that the learning environment cannot be dominated by a potentially counterproductive focus on this issue.

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. Within the bubbles, children will be organised into pods. A pod is a group of children (normally 4-6) who will sit together and who will stay in their pod while in the bubble, or classroom.

Decreasing Interaction. This will be achieved by decreasing the potential for children from different bubbles interacting.

There will be an assigned entry/exit door for each classroom bubble to enter and exit the school building in order to access their classrooms and the playground. There will be an assigned entry/exit stile or gate for each classroom to enter and exit the school yard.

-Sadly, this school year will be radically different from all others, from a Health and Safety point of view, because of the threat of the Covid19 Virus.

(a) Pupils are not permitted to run around or play on the school property unless a Teacher is supervising after 9.10am.

(b) Pupils should not be on the school property before 9.10am, if at all possible.

(c) Pupils must wait in their line, while maintaining social distancing, until their teacher admits them at 9.10am.

(d) After being admitted pupils will hang up their coats and then sanitise their hands before taking their seat or going out to play on their assigned yard after 9.10am.

(d) Pupils cannot run around the yard and play after 3pm either, but will line up, while maintaining social distancing, until they are collected.

Junior-Senior Infants entry /exit stile is located in front of the double doors.

Jnrs. and Snr. Infants will line up outside of the double doors each day, while maintaining social distancing, and wait for their class teacher to admit them at 9.10am.

Parents accompanying our new infants and any other pupil that needs that extra bit of reassurance, should also maintain social distancing, while waiting with their child.

Please note our arrival time for our New Junior Infants is 9.30 am for Thursday the 27th and Friday 28th August. We want to make the occasion special for them by giving their parents some extra space and time when the other classes have left the yards at 9.20am.

Unfortunately, no parents may enter the school, following H.S.E. guidelines, unless by prior approval of the Principal and for a purpose that cannot be accomplished by phone, text, email or a brief conversation at the wall with a staff member.

Any person seeking admission will have to fill in our Contact Tracing Log and our Pre-Return to Work Questionnaire. This is explained in our Covid Plan.

1st-2nd Classes The entry/exit stile is located in front of the double doors. Their entry/exit door is the nearest single door to this big gate, at the eastern end, of the front of the school building.

Pupils will line up, while maintaining social distancing, until they are admitted by their class Teacher at 9.10am.

3rd- 4th Classes The entry / exit stile for 3rd and 4th is the stile directly in front of the main school building. Their entry/ exit door is the single door at the western end, of the front of the building.

5th-6th Classes The entry /exit stile for 5th and 6th is the stile at the western end of the school wall, nearest to the Crosses of Annagh. Their entry /exit door is the door into the Halla located at the rear of the school building, at the Western side. To access this door our pupils will go around to the back of the school through the narrow passageway at the Western side of our school building.

While all children will be welcome back to school, we remind parents that, where children are displaying colds, coughs or flu like symptoms, they should not be sent to school. Children who display such symptoms in school will wait in their classroom Safe/Isolation area, which will be the porch inside of their entry / exit door, and will await collection by their parents.

PLEASE NOTE: 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>

Our Staff will make our pupils 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.

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.

Please stay safe,

Michael King
Principal