

Reopening of Schools March 2021

Most of the procedures that we prepared before Christmas will be continued with a few extra. We hope this will allow a smooth return to school for parents and children. We are doing our best to create a safe environment for all in our school community, while keeping your children's education, wellbeing and happiness at the forefront of our minds. Please read below a list of guidelines to help with the reopening of school.

In accordance with the Government Announcement all classes, will return to school on Monday 15th March.

All parents must complete a Return to Education Form for each pupil returning to school.

Arrangements for dropping off and picking up pupils.

- Only parents or carers who are well and have no symptoms of COVID-19 are advised to drop off and collect children. We would please ask parents/carers to wear masks should they need to get out of their cars.
- Any parent, guardian or grandparent who is in a high risk category should not drop off or collect children in order to protect themselves. (This of course is at the discretion of the individual parent/carer/ grandparent's discretion)
- As normal school starts at 9.20 am and yard duty starts at 9.10am, allowing ample time for drop offs.
- There should be no congregating of parents and or pupils at the gate. Everyone should maintain social distancing when dropping off and collecting children. We would please ask parents/carers to wear masks at the school gate.
- Parents/guardians/carers should wait in the car outside of the school for collection.
- Parents should get their children to sanitise their hands before entering school grounds.

- From Monday March 15TH - 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th will use the bottom road entrance. They can be dropped off at the carpark and walk around carefully to the main gate.(Teacher will be on duty)
- Juniors to 2nd Class will continue to use the entrance that they have been using since their return.
- Where pupils travel by bus, the bus will stop in the designated drop off area. As construction has started on our build, this designated area will be marked by the "Criss Cross" symbol. Please remind all children using the bus to sanitise hands when exiting the bus.
- The pupils will sanitise their hands again, entering the building and then take their seats in their pods in their rooms.

Exiting the school building

- Bus children will leave at 2.50. Junior classroom will go to the first with Pauline and Senior class will line up until called by Pauline, who will walk them to the bus.
- Junior Classroom will leave their building at 2.55 making their way to top Car Park
- Senior classroom will leave their building at 3.00pm making their way to top car park also.

Other helpful information

- **Break times:** Please assure children that they will be allowed play with all their classmates at break time. Junior classroom will play at the back of the school while the Senior building will play to the front.
- Children will be encouraged to use the toilet before and after break-time in order to reduce the use of the toilet and subsequent crossover of classrooms during break-time. However, if there is an emergency an adult will bring the child to the bathroom.
- Please ensure you have updated your contact details, mobile phone number, and email addresses in school. This can be submitted through the school email address.

- If you need to speak to any of the teachers please ring or email the school on (024)96533 or ballycurranens1@gmail.com. Under no circumstances should any parent enter the school grounds without previously arranging it with a staff member.
- All children can still wear their P.E gear every Tuesday and Thursday
- Parents must ensure that their child has his/her own hand sanitiser and tissues which are **labelled** coming to school. There will be plenty of hand sanitiser in the school. It is important that hands are clean before sanitising so talk to your child about hand sanitising. Visit <https://youtube/Eq1KCYxVZg> for a handwashing jingle to help smaller children wash their hands correctly.
- Parents must ensure that all of the child's equipment/books/copies are labelled with the child's name as equipment/books etc cannot be shared. It would be advisable to wash school/sanitise bags, pencil cases etc. Before returning to school.
- Parents are to ensure that their child knows and use the protocols around coughing/sneezing/use of tissues/hand sanitisers prior to returning to school.
- Parents must ensure that all books/writing equipment /lunch boxes/water bottles are sanitised using alcohol wipes on completion of homework before being placed in the child's schoolbag.
- Water bottles are to be filled at home every evening
- Pencils to be paired at home
- Children are to go to the bathroom before they leave home for school daily.
- Children are to wash their hands before leaving for school.
- Children's uniforms must be cleaned and washed regularly throughout the week as a child may have coughed or sneezed into their sleeve as per coughing protocols. Parents should clean their child's jumper as much as possible.
- It is advisable that pupils of Junior to 2nd class should wear Velcro shoes especially if they cannot tie shoe laces.

Under no circumstances is a parent to bring a child to school if -

- *If the child is exhibiting with cold and flu symptoms*
- *If the child has a temperature, is sneezing, coughing, who has been vomiting or has diarrhoea*
- *If the child has been outside the country in the 14 days prior to March 1, they are not to attend school but must self isolate*
- *If a child has been in contact with any member and or other person who is suspected of having COVID 19 or who has COVID 19*
- *All parents must complete A Return to Education Form for each pupil returning to school.*
- *If a child presents with any sickness at school we will phone immediately for you to collect your child.*

Protocols if a child becomes unwell or presents as a suspected case of COVID 19 while at school.

(Designated Covid 19 area is the back corner (surrounded by a screen) in Ms. Walsh's classroom. Where possible make sure the door is open when dealing with a suspected case for good ventilation)

- The child will be brought to the Isolation Unit by a staff member keeping at least 2m apart from the staff member
- The parent will be immediately contacted and asked to come to the school to take the child either to the doctor or home. The handover will take place at the top of the ramp leading to the car park.
- It is advisable to contact your doctor immediately.
- We understand that some parents may be busy/working but in the event that your child is required to be collected it is important that they are collected within 15-20 minutes maximum. If the child cannot be collected within this timeframe by the person that the school phones, alternative arrangements need to be made to ensure collection.
- A mask will be given to the child to wear until he/she is picked up. The staff member will remain with the child until he/she is picked up.
- Dedicated waste bin will be in place.
- The staff member caring for the child in isolation should wear P.P.E., ie mask, disposable apron and gloves

- The child will be encouraged not to touch surfaces, people or any objects
- Appropriate cleaning and disinfection of the isolation area and the child's work station will be carried out immediately.
- The Principal and the LWR will carry out an assessment of the incident which will form any part of follow up actions
- The principal will inform the HSE in line with correct protocols

We understand that these restrictions and changes in protocols may be difficult but we trust that by implementing them we can create a safer environment for both staff and pupils. We are all in this together and by everyone complying with the changes we will facilitate the school operating as normally as possible. I thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Kind Regards

Kevin Gough