

Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families are all keeping well and that you have enjoyed the summer holidays. We are really looking forward to returning to school and to seeing you all again.

Due to Covid 19, school will be a slightly different place this year, especially at the beginning but the children will get used to it very quickly. Physical distancing, less interaction between classes, staggered drop off times, pick up times and break times, bubbles and pods will become key features.

The following measures have been put in place so as to ensure our safe return to school. We ask that you please strictly adhere to these measures in the interest of the health and safety of our school community.

School Opening Times and Doors of Entry

3rd – 6th at 8.30am

- Door will be opened for **3rd – 6th Class** including siblings in lower classes at **8.30am**.
- **3rd and 4th Class** enter through **playground door**
- **5th Class** enter through the **side door** of the school
- **6th Class** enter through **front door**
- **PLEASE NOTE:** 3rd and 4th Class will be in 5th and 6th Classroom this year and 5th and 6th will be in 3rd and 4th Classroom. This is to accommodate the larger class size.

Infants – 2nd at 8.40am

- **Junior and Senior Infants** will enter through the **front door**
- **First and Second Class** will enter through the playground and go up the spiral staircase to their class

Home time

Junior & Senior Infants	1.30 pm (Exit front door)
3 rd /4 th	2.20 pm (Exit playground door)
5 th	2.30 pm (Exit side door)
6 th	2.30 pm (Exit front door)
1 st /2 nd	2.30 pm (Exit playground gate)

- Any pupil in 3rd or 4th Class who has a sibling in 1st, 2nd, 5th or 6th Class will leave school at 2.20pm also.

We ask that your child is picked up **promptly** at the above time in the interest of health and safety.

THE FOLLOWING DETAILS ARE VERY IMPORTANT. **PLEASE ENSURE YOU READ OVER THEM WITH YOUR CHILDREN.**

- The children will be met at the door of the school each morning by a member of staff who will escort them to their classrooms. We ask that parents do not enter the school building as per DES guidelines. If you need to make contact with the class teacher, please write a note in the homework diary and the class teacher will make contact as soon as possible. The children will make their way to their classes each morning in single file up the stairs, adhering strictly to social distancing rules – I metre apart.
- The children will go straight to their classrooms with **all** their belongings.
- We **must have** prompt drop off and pickup measures. If you are coming to school by car, we encourage you to stay in your car until your allocated time. We also encourage you to use Park & Stride. Full details to follow. For further information go to <https://www.galwaycity.ie/park-n-stride>
- We ask you sincerely to please refrain from congregating outside the school building as per Government Guidelines.

- We ask that the children have all their own equipment labelled as sharing is not permitted. It is also highly advisable to have a pencil case for home use and for school use if possible, as it is recommended the children leave their pencil cases in school after each school day.
- We also request that if your child shows any symptoms consistent with Covid 19 that you do not send them to school. In the event of your child showing any symptoms of Covid 19 whilst in school, an isolation room has been set up, as per DES guidelines, where children will remain until they are collected by their parent/guardian. Please make sure you are contactable at all times.
- Should you need to get something to your child, it can be left at the front door where it will be picked up and passed on to your child.
- Please note: there will be no French, Chinese or swimming until further notice.
- Children are not required to supply hand sanitiser products as hand sanitiser dispensers have been installed throughout the school.
- In order to allow the children to settle back with ease to school, there will be no homework given to the children until October 4th.
- Arrangements for necessary visitors such as contactors and parents will be restricted to essential purposes and limited to those who have obtained prior approval from the principal.

This is new territory for all of us. The wellbeing and safety of our school community is our priority. We ask for your patience and understanding with the introduction of these new changes as we all look forward to our return on September 1st. Should any changes occur due to DES guidelines we will inform you immediately.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Lynch.