

5th August, 2020



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

As of today, there still have been no new guidelines from DE regarding a full return to school so we will be following the plan sent to you last week.

Our intention is to allow time for staff, children and parents to adapt to new routines and procedures. This will be better accomplished with reduced numbers. We hope that we will be able to facilitate a full return at some point in the new term when the new school day is well established and everyone feels confident in the new environment.

To this end then, we have divided each class into two groups. We have kept families together for practical reasons but it is impossible to ensure that friendship groups remain together. Please remember that this arrangement will be temporary and full classes will resume as soon as is feasible.

During the first week beginning 24th August, the children will attend for ONE DAY ONLY from 10am to 12:30pm, as part of a pastoral induction process. There will be no school dinners on this induction day. **Children are not to bring school bags with them until further instructed.**

For the following two weeks beginning 31st August and 7th September, the children will attend for two full days, Monday/Tuesday, Wednesday/Thursday, depending on their cohort. We appreciate that 31st August is a bank holiday but we need to work it to ensure every child receives the same amount of days at school. **Primary One and Two do not have to bring any stationery or school supplies with them.** P3-P7 should bring a labelled zip folder with pencils, rubbers, colouring pencils etc. All children may bring a lunch box containing a snack for break-time, a bottle of water (labelled) and a small bottle of hand sanitiser for their own individual use.

Regarding school uniform, if children want to wear their PE uniform one of the two days that they are in, then this is totally acceptable given the current guidelines.

Staff will be in the yard to guide the children to their classes before entering the building. The children will also exit through the same doors.

P.1 children will be a priority as this may prove particularly stressful for children and parents. We will aim for a handover in the yard, siblings may also accompany their younger brother or sister. P.1 parents may have to come as far as the door to help with this transition.

Children can be dropped off at 10am on the first week and from 8.45am until 9.15am thereafter.

P1 will be available for collection at 12:30 for collection from their entrance/exit points on their induction day and 1pm for the first two weeks after that.

P.2 – P.3 will be available for collection from their entrance/exit points from 12:30pm during their induction day and from 1.45pm in the weeks after that.

P.4 – P.7 will be available for collection from their entrance/exit points from 12.30pm during their induction day and from 2.45pm in the weeks after that.

Nursery children have separate arrangements.

We are asking that parents exercise social distancing at all times when in the school yard. **Parents are not permitted to enter the school building unless absolutely necessary.**

There will be no parking for parents inside the main school gates (apart from those with disabled parking displayed). Children and parents can gain entrance to the school grounds through the main single gates, chapel gates and gates leading down the steps to the right of the school.

I have attached a schedule of the above information which will hopefully make all of this clearer. While the first few days may be somewhat tricky to navigate our way through, if we are all sensible and practical, we will soon get used to this new routine.

Due to GDPR regulations I will be sending out a separate email to you regarding your child(ren)'s cohorts.

We will continue to keep you updated on any developments or changes through the normal platforms.

Thank you very much for your continued support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Brendan Tierney