



Covid 19 Response Plan – Information for Parents

The school will reopen on a staggered basis in order to help the children to come to terms with the new routines of school.

Group B (3rd Class – 6th Class) will return to school on **Thursday 27th August**. They will have **no school the following day**, and will then return to school on **Monday 31st August**.

Group A (Junior Infants – 2nd Class) will return to school on **Friday 28th August** and will return to school on **Monday 31st August**.

NB – 3rd class will come to school on both **Thursday and Friday 27th and 28th August** in order to help with their sacramental preparations.

Class	Thursday 27 th August	Friday 28 th August	Monday 31 st August and beyond
JIs	No school	School	School
SIs	No school	School	School
1st	No school	School	School
2nd	No school	School	School
*3rd	School	School	School
4th	School	No school	School
5th	School	No school	School
6th	School	No school	School

Junior Infants' First Day

One parent may accompany his/her child into the classroom for a short time on Friday 28th August. Parents and children should come to the rear of the school and then they can enter the school up the ramp. The parent should wear a mask and try to observe social distancing as much as possible.

From Monday 31st August, parents should bring the children to the yard at the rear of the school and thereafter only the pupils will walk in with Ms. Wall.

The new junior infants will finish at 12 noon for the first two weeks until Friday 11th September and will then finish at the normal infant time of 1.45pm. Please ensure you have childcare arrangements in place for the earlier finishing time.



Timetable for Group A (Junior Infants – 2nd Class)	Timetable for Group B (3rd Class – 6th Class)
<p>9.05 – School start 10.40 – Break time 10.50 – Class resumes 12.00 – Lunch time 12.30 – Class resumes 1.45 – Infant classes finish 2.45 – 1st and 2nd classes finish</p>	<p>9.05 – School start 11.00 – Break time 11.10 – Class resumes 12.40 – Lunch time 1.10 – Class resumes 2.45 – Classes finish</p>
Classes in Group A	Classes in Group B
<p>JI – Ms. Wall SI – Ms. Laffan 1st – Mr. Moore 2nd – Ms. Shannon</p>	<p>3rd – Ms. Breen 4th – Ms. Morris/Ms. Swan 5th – Ms. Miskella 6th – Mr. Coffey</p>



Hygiene and Cleaning

Sanitiser dispensers will be installed throughout the school e.g. at each entrance, at the door of each classroom, etc. Soap (which emulsifies at low temperatures) and water is available in all classrooms and toilets. Hand hygiene will be promoted and encouraged, and parents/guardians are asked to support the school in reinforcing this message.

Handwashing and Sanitising Regime for Children

Time	Method
Upon entering school	Sanitiser
Before eating at little break	Handwashing
After returning from the yard	Sanitiser (wash hands if visibly dirty)
Before eating at big break	Handwashing
After returning from the yard	Sanitiser (wash hands if visibly dirty)
Before going home	Sanitiser
*After using toilet	Handwashing

In accordance with the DES guidelines, the school will be thoroughly cleaned at least once per day. Particular attention will be focused on frequently touched surfaces – door handles, handrails, chairs/arm rests, desks, sink and toilet facilities.

All staff will have access to cleaning products and will be required to maintain cleanliness of their own work area. Waste will be collected daily by our cleaner.

Changes to Classroom Layouts

The DES guidelines recognise that a common-sense approach is needed in our primary schools. To that end, every effort will be made to limit interaction within classrooms, to limit contact between class groups and to limit the sharing of common facilities.

The children and their teachers will work in class bubbles. A class bubble is a grouping which stays apart from other classes as much as possible. The aim of the system within the school is that class groupings mix only with their own class - from arrival at school in the morning until the children go home at the end of the school day.

It is recognised that younger children are unlikely to maintain physical distancing indoors so there is no requirement for children from junior infants to 2nd class to maintain a physical distance within their class bubble.



Children from 3rd class to 6th class will be distanced insofar as is practicable, with approximately 1m distancing achieved in all rooms. Teachers will modify their classrooms to create as much space as possible.

To facilitate the larger numbers, Mr. Moore's 1st class will be situated in the classroom used by Ms. Shannon last year, and vice versa.

Learning Support

In keeping with our special educational needs (SEN) policy, learning support will be provided by a blended approach of in-class and withdrawal support. Initially, the focus will be primarily on welcoming the children back, giving them a chance to speak about how they feel, and establishing relationships and routines. The provision of support will be organised to ensure our support teachers will work within the confines of the minimum amount of class bubbles.

- Where a support teacher is working alongside a class teacher in a classroom, both teachers must be mindful of maintaining social distance from one another.
- Where children receive support in one of the SEN rooms, social distancing of 1 metre will be maintained between each child in the group. Only pupils from the same class bubble may be withdrawn together for SEN purposes
- The tables and chairs in SEN rooms will be wiped clean in between different groups attending. Where possible, resources in SEN settings will be stored in individual pouches for each child in order to limit sharing, and the pouches can then be wiped and sanitised.
- SNAs will continue to provide support and will wear appropriate PPE. They will bring the children outside as much as possible.

Entrance and Exit Points for Specific Classes

To facilitate pupils arriving with pupils entering and exiting the grounds safely, we ask that no pupils be present on school grounds before 9am. From 9 to 9.20, staff will be supervising at the lay by and main pedestrian entrance. Over this period, pupils can enter the school grounds through their designated gate and proceed directly to their class, where their class teacher will be waiting for them.

Key to Entrances and Exits

Entrance and Exit Points	Number
Gates at front of school	1
Door to carpark (hitherto unused)	2
Main door at reception	3



Door leading out onto ramp and yard	4
Exit door onto yard from Ms. Shannon's room	5
Exit door onto yard from Mr. Moore's room	6
Exit door opposite 4 th class	7
Exit door opposite principal's office	8
Exit door opposite PE store	9

Entrance and Exit Points for Specific Classes

Teacher	Class	School Building Entrance and Exit Point	School Grounds Entrance and Exit Point
Ms. Wall	Jun. Inf.	4	1
Ms. Laffan	Sen. Inf.	4	1
Mr. Moore	1 st Class	5	1
Ms. Shannon	2 nd Class	6	1
Ms. Breen	3 rd Class	3	2
Ms. Morris/Ms. Swan	4 th Class	7	2



Yards

The yard and field will be divided up into four zones. Each group (A and B) will have access to their class zone on the yard during their allotted break times as follows. They will also have access to their allocated zone on the school field if it is in use. Children will use the field unless it is very wet.

Basketball Court		Infant Yard	
JIs	SIs	1 st Class	2 nd Class
A	B	C	D

Basketball Court		Infant Yard	
5 th Class	3 rd Class	4 th Class	6 th Class
A	B	C	D

Pupils from the same class can play freely with each other but physical contact will be kept to a minimum where possible. Each break will be supervised by one teacher and the SNA/s assigned to the classes on yard.



Lunches

Pupils will be given time to eat lunch in class as usual. We will be asking parents to remind pupils to eat directly from their lunch boxes, and not to use the surface of the table to place their food on. Please remind children that sharing of food is not permitted. Lunch boxes and drinks bottles should be washed thoroughly, inside and out, each day.

PE

Where possible, PE should take place outdoors and use of equipment should be confined to the sets that have been distributed to class groupings. Classes may take additional breaks outside during the school day.

Pupils' Equipment and Stationery

- In so far as possible, it is requested that children will bring their own pens, pencils, colours, rubbers, etc. to school in their own pencil case to avoid the sharing of equipment. This should be kept in school and separate items should be kept at home for homework as necessary.
- It is further requested that all items have the child's name on them for ease of identification.
- For children in Junior and Senior Infants, the school will provide a pouch or container which will hold each child's pencils, crayons, etc. and which will be labelled with their name.

Shared Equipment

By necessity, some classroom equipment needs to be shared including tablets, laptops and the equipment used for structured activities and play in infant classrooms. Cleaning of such shared equipment with wipes or other cleaning products will take place at regular intervals to minimise the risk of the spread of infection.

PPE

The Department of Education advise that facemasks should be worn by all staff who cannot maintain a 2m social distance from pupils. The BoM is supplying all staff with the personal protection equipment they will need. Gloves and aprons will also be provided for providing intimate care or first aid.

Swimming

This is currently under review.

Ventilation



Where practical, all internal doors will be left open to minimise hand contact with common surfaces. To ensure that classrooms are well ventilated, windows will be kept open as often as possible.

Assembly

Whole school assemblies will not take place for the foreseeable future.

Payments

We have an online payment system that minimises the amount of cash that needs to be handled. Parents/guardians are asked to co-operate in helping to keep school staff safe by arranging for online payments through the school office.

Wet Days

On wet days the classes will remain indoors as normal. The teacher on duty will supervise from the classroom door and only enter the room if absolutely necessary. Senior classes will stay in their pods.

Corridors

Briefly passing someone in a hall is very unlikely to contribute significantly to the spread of infection if people do not have physical contact and avoid informal group discussions. We will teach the children to keep to the right when on the stairs and in the corridors.

Teacher Absence and Substitution

In the event that teacher is unable to attend school, every effort will be made to secure a substitute teacher for the class. If a substitute teacher is not available, a SEN teacher will supervise the class. The class will not be divided into groups and accommodated in other classes. If we cannot source a supervising teacher, it may not be possible for the class to attend on that day. If that is the case, as much notice as possible will be given to parents.

Collection of Children during the School Day

If an adult has to collect a child during the course of the school day, the following arrangements will apply

- When the adult arrives at the school, they should either phone the office or use the intercom at reception to alert the office that they have arrived. Only two people can be in the reception area at any one time, and they must wear masks. Please check the number of people in the reception area before entering.
- The child will be brought from their class to the adult by a member of staff.
- The adult who is collecting will be asked to sign the child out.



- No adult can enter the school building from the reception area, unless invited to do so.

Children Who Should Not Attend School

If your child is in one of the following categories, they should not attend school –

- Children who have been diagnosed with Covid-19.
- Children who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19.
- Children who have a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending.
- Children who have been in contact with a person who has a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending.
- Children with underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school.
- Children who have returned home after travelling abroad and must self-isolate for a period of 14 days.
- Children who are generally unwell.

Impact of a Suspected or Confirmed Case of Covid-19 in a Class

If the school is notified that a person in your child's class has a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19

- The parents of all children in the class will be notified.
- Public health advice will be sought and followed.

Illness and Absences

Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19

Pupils should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of Covid-19. If a pupil displays symptoms of Covid-19 while in the building, the following are the procedures will be implemented:

- Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately – please ensure all contact details are up to date and in use, and also provide the name and number of a contact who will be in a position to collect a child promptly.
- The child will be accompanied to the designated isolation area via the isolation route by a member of staff. The staff member will remain at least 2 metres away from the symptomatic child and will also make sure that others maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from the symptomatic child at all times



- A mask will be provided for the child presenting with symptoms, if one is available. He/she should wear the mask if in a common area with other people or while exiting the premises
- An assessment will be made as to whether the child who is displaying symptoms can immediately be brought home by parents and call their doctor and continue self-isolation at home
- The school will facilitate the child presenting with symptoms to remain in isolation, if they cannot immediately go home, and will assist them by calling their GP.
- The child presenting with symptoms should be advised to cover their mouth and nose with the disposable tissue provided when they cough or sneeze and to put the tissue in the waste bag provided
- If the child is well enough to go home, the school will arrange for them to be transported home by a family member, as soon as possible, and advise them to inform their GP by phone of their symptoms. Public transport of any kind should not be used
- If they are too unwell to go home or advice is required, the school will contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick child is a Covid-19 suspect.
- Arrangements will be made for appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and work areas involved.

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 it is important to know and recognise the symptoms. They are:

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

Children with underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school.

Parents should seek advice from their GP/consultant if they think their child is in a high risk group. If they are advised not to attend, then the parents should furnish the school with a letter containing words to this effect. The school will then support the child with his/her learning.



FAQs

What is happening with homework? For the first full week, there will be no homework. The staff are currently discussing homework procedures for the rest of the year. We will let you know when we have finalised these procedures.

Can I send in a bottle of sanitiser with my child? Yes, but please remind your child it is for personal use and it may only be used with the permission of the teacher. Regulations stipulate that children should not have independent use of containers of alcohol gel.

Can my child wear a facemask? It is not recommended that children attending primary school or preschool/childcare settings wear face-coverings.

Will staff be wearing facemasks? Yes, at times. And possibly visors also.

Will parent/teacher meetings be taking place? We are awaiting further guidance on this.

What if I need to speak with my child's teacher? Please contact Melissa in the office or your child's teacher via email. Do not write notes in the journal.

What happens if my child's teacher is out sick? Every effort to find a substitute will be made. If one cannot be found, the SEN teachers will be asked to supervise the class. If we cannot supervise the class, we may have to send the children home.

What happens if my child forgets their lunch or drinks? The school will contact you so you can drop one to the school for your child.

My child has hay fever and sneezes quite a bit, will he/she be sent home? If your child has an underlying condition such as hay fever (as many of us have) please make sure the class teacher is aware.

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 it is important to know and recognise the symptoms. They are:

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



What if my child is sent home with a suspected case of Covid 19? We would advise that you contact your GP/HSE for further advice. If a child is unwell they should under no circumstances be sent back to school.

Are parents permitted in the school building? No, not unless collecting a pupil presenting with Covid 19 symptoms or have received prior permission and have been invited in from the reception area.

My child is in a “pod” with some other children, can they still play with their other classmates at break time? Yes, absolutely, when out in the yard. On wet days, the children will remain in their pods. But they can still chat with children in other pods as long as they keep the distance between the pods.

Are 3rd to 6th classes in “pods”? At the start of the school year we will be distancing pupils as much as possible, with approximately 1m between all students. This will not eliminate pupils from interacting with each other or prevent talk and discussion. Pods will be alternated after Christmas and Easter.

What happens if my child falls on yard/gets a bump or cut? Our first aid policy will be followed, but staff are required to wear PPE to apply first aid.

Why can some of the classes not mix? They are playing soccer/GAA together anyway! That may be the case for some of the pupils, but our procedures are governed by Dept. of Education guidelines, which state that every effort must be made to limit the amount of contact between “bubbles”. We do not adhere to the guidelines of other sporting /social organisations.

Will teachers talk to the children about Covid 19? Yes, from day one we will be re-teaching cough etiquette, hand hygiene, reinforcing the idea of social distancing/reduced physical contact, and chatting (in an age appropriate way) about Covid 19. The aim will be on reassurance and promoting calmness and safety.

Will the children wear their uniform? Yes, it is business as normal in relation to uniform. There is no guidance from the Department of Education or HSPC to the contrary. Junior and senior infants will wear their navy school tracksuit everyday, however.

Will after school activities be taking place? This matter is still under review.

Principal: Mr. Mark Kelly
Deputy Principal: Mrs. Anne O'Dowd



Chairperson: Fr. Michael Byrne

Will the school be cleaned each day? Yes, and all staff will monitor their rooms to ensure safe practices are applied.

What will be the most difficult issue for schools and parents? When children display symptoms of Covid 19. We will have to ring you and you will have to come and collect your child immediately. Your child will have to be brought to the isolation area. These are the government guidelines.

We are not qualified to make a distinction between Covid 19 symptoms and symptoms of other illnesses. Be prepared. Make arrangements for your child to be collected in the event of a phone call.

Will this document be updated? Almost definitely. It is an evolving situation and we will most likely have to change elements of it when we observe it in practice. We will be reviewing our procedures constantly. We will also be in contact with you closer to the return to school date with more information.