August 26th, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians/Children,

I hope that you all had a great summer and that you have been safe and well. It looks like the weather is going to be very good for the last few days of the holidays, so I hope you can get an opportunity to enjoy it.

Thankfully the Covid 19 situation is improving and hopefully it will continue to do so over the coming weeks and months. The Department of Education has advised that all schools should return to the routines and precautions that were in place at the end of the last school year. Therefore, when school returns next Tuesday, we will continue with the protocols that were in place and we will review these as circumstances change over time.

I would be grateful if you could take time to read the notes below as they contain most of the information for a smooth return to school.

We are really looking forward to welcoming our pupils back after the holidays and working together we will ensure that it will be a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

Yours sincerely,

Ambrose Mc Ginnity

Principal.

***Return to School:***

All pupils to return on Tuesday August 31st.

***School Starting Times***

The school gates will be open at 8:50 am and all pupils (***with the exception of Junior Infants)*** will be expected to be in their classrooms by 9:00 am

With the exception of parents of children in infants’ classes***, parents are asked not to enter school grounds***and are advised to drop their children off at the school gates.

Pupils are encouraged to walk/cycle or scoot to school as much as possible.

* Pupils from Senior Infants to 6th classes will go directly to their classrooms.
* Pupils will enter their classes
  + Classroom Fire doors
  + Ms O Kane’s (Senior Infants/First Class) and Ms Neary’s (Senior Infants) who will use the school’s main entrance
  + Ms. Boylan’s/ Ms Woods (5th Class) will enter through the new extension door.
* Classrooms will be open from 8.50am to 9.00am.
* Pupils should not be on school grounds before 8.50am and there should be no congregating in groups outside the school gates.
* **Parents of Junior Infants** will drop their child off at Ms Kelledy’s fire-door between the times of 9.10 am and 9.30am for the first week and between 8.50am and 9.00am from then on. A flow system will be explained to parents on the first day and will be in operation thereafter.

***Home Time:***

In order to adhere to social distancing protocols and to alleviate large numbers of pupils leaving the school at the same time, we will be staggering dismissal from school. From day one, pupils with surnames beginning with the letters ;

* A to L                     dismissed at 2.40pm
* M to Z                   dismissed at 2.45pm
* Pupils will be asked to leave the school grounds without delay and to go straight home.
* Older pupils will be permitted to collect their younger siblings before leaving the school grounds.

**Junior Infants :**

New Junior Infants are to be collected each day at12:30 for the first two weeks.

**Infants Collection Times:**

The following collection times will be in place for all senior infant classes from Tuesday, August 31st and for Junior Infants from Monday, September 13th:

                Ms Kelledy’s Junior Infants         1:35 pm                                                                                                                Ms Neary’s Senior Infants 1:40 pm                                                                                                                Ms O Kane’s Junior Infants          1:45 pm

***Hygiene***

The school has been thoroughly cleaned and sanitised over the school holidays. Pupils will be reminded to maintain good hand hygiene and previous protocols with regard to sanitising will continue. Particular attention will be paid to maximising ventilation in classrooms and CO2 monitors will be in operation later in September.

***Attendance***

We look forward to welcoming all our children back to school. However, it is important that the safety and health of all our school community is respected and that this is the responsibility of us all. Consequently, it is very important that the following protocols are observed;

* Children displaying flu like symptoms or having a cold or a cough should not be sent to school.
* Children who show these symptoms at school will be isolated and parents will be called to collect them from the school.
* Further information on COVID-19 symptoms in children is available at: - <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/if-your-child-has-symptoms.html>

***Collection of children during the school day:***

If a parent/guardian has to collect a child during the course of the school day please comply with the following arrangements

* Please phone the school office at 041 9822873 to notify the time of collection
* The child will be brought to the foyer of the main entrance.
* The secretary/principal will open the main door to let the child out.
* No adults should enter the school building unless invited to do so.

***Masks***

* Pupils do not need to wear masks in school. However, if a child wishes to wear one, they are free to do so.

**Information Video**

* The Department of Education has produced an information video for parents that can be accessed at the link below

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/#returning-to-school>