

St. Kevin's G.N.S.

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17th August 2020

Re: Safe reopening of our schools

Dear Parents/Guardians.

The School's full Covid-19 response plan will be finalised and sent home later this week. In the meantime, the following information should give you most of the information that you need to prepare for school reopening.

School Reopening:

When school reopens the week after next, the following arrangements for entering the school grounds will apply:

Children may enter the school through any of the opened gates, with the **EXCEPTION** of the staff carpark in gate.

To prevent the children congregating, school gates will remain closed until 8.40am and nobody will be allowed access until then. When the gates are opened, children should walk directly to their classrooms; classroom doors will be open, and supervision will be in place. On the first two mornings back at school, parents/guardians from all classes are welcome to drop their children to their classroom doors. From Wednesday onwards, parents of children from 3rd – 6th class are asked not to come onto school grounds, leaving children safely at the school gate. There will be stewards (known to the girls) to guide them in. Parents/guardians of children in the younger classes walk closer to the classroom doors but are asked to minimise time on the grounds.

First Day Back – Monday 31st August: we are staggering opening times to allow us to safely start the school year and to allow training for the children in our new systems. The timetable for arrival times for Monday only are detailed below:

Staggered arrival times for day one:

CLASS	Start Time	What to do on day 1
Junior Infants	9.45 am	Please use external door, directly into classroom
Senior Infants	8.50am	Please use external door, directly into classroom
First Class	9.00am	Please use external door, directly into classroom
Second Class	9.10am	Please use external door, directly into classroom
Third Class	9.20am	Please use external door, directly into classroom

Fourth Class	8.50 am	Please use the fire exit door located at the end of building near the pylon.
Sixth Class	9. 00 am	Please use the fire exit door located at the end of building near the pylon
Fifth Class (Ms. Collins)	9.10am	Please use fire exit on main yard (usual entry for senior classes)
Fifth Class (Ms. Farrell-new teacher)	9.20 am	Please use fire exit on main yard (usual entry for senior classes)

From Tuesday, 1st of September onwards, this will be the schedule:

Junior Infants: All infants arrive for a 9.45 am start, and school will finish at 11.45. This timetable will continue for the first week. From Monday, 7th of September, children should arrive between 8.40am and 9.10am and school will finish at 11.45.

Senior Infants: There will be a will be on a shortened day for the **first week** of September for Senior Infants. Children should arrive between 8.40am and 9.10am and school will finish at 11.45. Full infant day from **Monday 7th of September** (1.30pm finish).

First Class: Arriving between 8.40am and 9.10am and finishing at 1.30pm.

Second Class to Fourth Classes: Children should arrive between 8.40am and 9.10am. Finishing time: 2.30pm as usual.

Fifth and Sixth Classes: Children should arrive between 8.40am and 9.10am.

Sixth Classes finishing times: For September, 6th classes will finish at **2.25pm** – this is to avoid congestion in the school yard when leaving.

Fifth Classes finishing times: For September, 5th classes will finish at **2.20pm** – this is to avoid congestion in the school yard when leaving.

Unless older pupils are collecting younger siblings, they should leave the school ground immediately.

School Uniform:

As previously advised,

There is no change to the make-up of our school uniform next year.

- The Board of Management proposes that for 2020/2021 school uniform OR tracksuit can be worn daily. Tracksuit must be worn on PE days, but other than that parents can chose either uniform or tracksuit daily. This should allow parents wash additionally if they wish. The school has not been advised to ask parents to wash clothes more frequently, however:
 - It is requested that children change out of their uniforms when they arrive home from school (please don't wear to shops etc.)– in this way, risk of infection is reduced.

Lunches:

- Children to come to school with an appropriate lunch bag/box. All uneaten food, and packaging be brought home in lunchbox / bags
- **Staff will not be handling children's food**, for hygiene reasons. In practical terms, this means that each child must be able to open, unwrap and eat their lunches independently. This is a chance to move away from processed type foods, such as *Cheese Strings/lunchables/Frubes* etc, which are expensive and which children often struggle to fully eat without assistance in school.
- We would ask that children use beakers, where they are unable to independently open carton drinks/straws etc
- Lunchboxes/drinking beakers should be washed daily.

Reminder to anyone attending school who has travelled abroad:

- Government policy, which is based on official public health advice, continues to advise against non-essential travel overseas for everyone.
- It is a requirement for anyone coming into Ireland, from locations other than those with a rating of 'normal precautions' ("green"), to restrict their movements for 14 days, and this includes school staff, parents and children or other students coming from abroad to attend school in Ireland. Restricting your movements means staying indoors in one location and avoiding contact with other people and social situations as much as possible.

We hope the above details help the school community prepare for a safe return and we are really looking forward to seeing all the girls.

Slán go fóill,

Miriam Dignam