



Student Guide

Our 'new' school environment during Covid-19

Hello everyone. As some of the policies and guidelines around Covid-19 and returning to school on the 31st of August have made for quite substantial reading, we have put together this brief and hopefully clear guide to help you prepare for your return to school life.

Coming to school/ Entering the building:

- The school gates will be open at 8.40am – You are not permitted into school before this time. Best thing is to arrive to the gate just after 8.40 am.
- We do not want crowds arriving together, so you can arrive to school any time from 8.40am until 9.10am. After 9.10am, you will be late!
- When we open the gates, we ask you to walk directly into your classroom – no hanging around chatting!
- If your classroom is **downstairs** you will go directly into your room from outside. You will need to disinfect/wash your hands before going to your seat.
- Every class will have a station for you to apply sanitiser.
- If you are in **Ms. O'Sullivan's fourth class and Ms. Kenny's sixth class** – you will come into the building using the fire escape door at the end of the building facing the pylon. Here, you will be asked to disinfect your hands. You will then walk up the near stairs directly to your classrooms.
- If you are in **Ms. Collins' or Ms. Farrell's fifth class** – you will come into the building using the usual entrance door from senior yard. Just inside you will be asked to disinfect your hands. You will then walk up the nearest stairs directly to your classrooms.
- Only you are allowed into the building – you will need to wave goodbye to the person bringing you to school at the school gates, unless you are infants, first or second and want to be walked to the outside door of your room.
- Remember, adults need to keep a 2 metre **Social Distance** from each other.
- **Walking and cycling** to school is the best way to travel!

What do I bring to school?

- On the **first day** back, you will need to bring what your individual teacher has instructed.
- **Every other day**, you only bring your lunch with you and a bag for your coat.
- You will be leaving your pencil case (and only one pencil case) in school all the time.
- Remember, you are **not allowed share** your pencils, colours, rubbers etc, so come prepared!
- Your class teacher will let you know exactly what stationery you will need to bring in.
- Personal toys, games etc should also remain at home this year.



What to bring for lunch

- You must bring your lunch and drink in a **lunch box or lunch bag**.
- You will have to bring everything you don't finish and all wrappings home again in that box/bag.
- We are trying to keep the classroom bins for used hand towels.
- You must bring a **drink** that you can open and drink yourself – the best thing to bring is a beaker, especially if you find straws tricky. Water is the best option.
- Remember, your teacher or SNA **will not be able to help** you with your lunch or drink this year, so have everything ready to eat and drink!
- Most of us have tried to **eat healthily** whilst in 'lockdown'. We will be making a very special effort this school year to continue this good work – you will be asked to follow our healthy eating policy.
- Your lunch box/bag should be clearly labelled with your name. Your teacher will tell you where this is to be kept in the classroom.

What do these new words mean?

You will hear some new words, when we talk about your classroom, these words are:

Bubble: your class will be a *Bubble* – only people in the *Bubble* will be allowed enter the room. You will not be allowed mix with anyone outside your *Bubble* whilst in the school building.

Pod: your new teacher will assign you a seat and desk, the other girls sitting at your desk are now part of your *Pod*. You must sit in your assigned chair within your assigned *Pod* – you will not be able to change desks during the day or freely move around the room.

What will my classroom look like?

- It will be a bit different than before.
- There will be **less furniture**, your art press will be missing, so too will your extra chairs and desks at the sink.
- There will be no mobile library.
- The reason is your Pod needs more space this year.
- Your teacher's desk will be a little further away than you remember. This is because as a grown up, teacher needs to "socially distance" from others ... remember your **2-metre rule** when approaching teachers' desk!
- This year, your classroom will be a little cooler than last year, as we have been told to keep **windows open** and let lots of fresh air in (don't forget your warm school jumper!)
- Please label your clothes with your name and class.



Yard Time:

- Yard breaks will be different this year.
- First break will be longer - **20 minutes** from 10:20 – 10:40
- Lunch time will be shorter, also 20 minutes long from 12:00 – 12:20
- You must stay within your **classroom bubble** when playing on yard. This year. You will be asked to stay and play within a certain boundary too.
- You will only go out to yard once, but your teacher will take you out at other informal times.

Sick Bay & Detention

- As girls will not be allowed to mix outside their classroom Bubble, there will be **no sick bay** room for the foreseeable future. If you are feeling unwell before coming to school, you should remain at home. If you fall on yard, the teacher on yard will tend to you out there.
- If a girl becomes unwell when in school, the adults will decide what is the best thing to do.

What do I do when leaving school at the end of the day?

- All parents/guardians have been given a list with the opening and closing times for September.
- You will leave your classroom using the **same door you entered**.
- You should leave the school grounds as soon as possible.
- Don't forget, adults must **socially distance** when collecting you, so you might not see them straight away!
- For September, **Sixth Class** will be allowed home at 2.25pm.
- **Fifth Class** at 2.20pm
- **Fifth and Sixth** should be gone off school grounds before the rest of the students exit at 2.30pm, unless waiting for younger siblings. (details to follow)

What if I need to leave early?

- Your parent/guardian should notify the school in advance that you are expected to leave early. They can write a note for your teacher to see, or they can telephone Ann in the office (01) 4517981
- All girls must be collected by an appropriate adult during the school day. No student regardless of age or distance from their home, will be permitted to leave alone during school hours.
- If leaving early the person collecting you should come to the Reception to confirm your collection.
- Parents/guardians will not be permitted to enter the school building.



Running late?

- You will have until 9.10 this year to get to school.
- After that the doors will be closed
- If there is an unavoidable delay- please ring Ann (4517981) and Ms. Dignam will meet you and bring you in to your classroom.
- We would hope that this would be a rare occurrence.

Masks and visors:

- Your teacher or SNA and other adults working in the school, may wear a visor, but not a mask. Don't worry, you'll still be able to recognise everyone!
- There is no need for you to wear any face coverings, as they are not recommended for children under 13 years of age.
- All adults entering the building (by appointment only) will be required to wear a mask while in the building.

Can I bring my own hand sanitiser and tissues?

- The school will provide these, so you are not expected to provide your own, though if you wish, you can keep a personal supply in your coat pockets for use outside the school.



What can I and my family do to help get ready for school?

- know how to practise correct coughing etiquette
- know how to practise correct sneezing etiquette
- know how to wash your hands properly. Sing “happy birthday” in your head!!
- know how to disinfect your hands properly
- You should be able to adjust your own clothes and use the bathroom on your own.
- You should be able to zip and unzip your coat by yourself
- You should know how to tie your own laces, if wearing runners or lace up shoes as no one is allowed to do this for you for now.
- You should be able to open your drink bottle and eat your lunch without needing help from an adult.
- Label all personal belongings – your school jumper and tracksuit tops. Your lunch box and beaker, pencil case etc.



Summary of times and dates for your parents.

- Adults should practise social distancing, follow government guidelines, wear masks inside building.

CLASS	Start Time	What to do every other day
Junior Infants	9.45 am	From Monday, 7th of September, children should arrive between 8.40am and 9.10am and school will finish at 11:45am. Full infant day from Monday, 28th of September (1.30pm finish).
Senior Infants	8.40-9.10am	Children should arrive between 8.40am and 9.10am and school will finish at 11:45 for the first week only! Full infant day from Monday 7th of September (1.30pm finish).
First Class	8.40-9.10am	Arriving between 8.40am and 9.10 am and finishing at 1.30pm until Friday, 18th September. Full school day to begin on Monday 21 st September (finish at 2.30pm)
Second Class	8.40-9.10am	Children should arrive between 8.40am and 9.10am. Finishing time: 2.30pm as usual.
Third Class	8.40-9.10am	Children should arrive between 8.40am and 9.10am. Finishing time: 2.30pm as usual.
Fourth Class	8.40-9.10am	Children should arrive between 8.40am and 9.10am. Finishing time: 2.30pm as usual.
Fifth Class	8.40-9.10am	Children should arrive between 8.40am and 9.10 am. For September, 5 th classes will finish at 2.20pm – this is to avoid congestion in the school yard when leaving.
Sixth Class	8.40-9.10am	Children should arrive between 8.40am and 9.10am. For September, 6 th classes will finish at 2.25pm – this is to avoid congestion in the school yard when leaving.
ASD Class		We will be in touch soon!