

19<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents,

We are really looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 31st August. We are very aware that our pupils have been away from school for a long time. The Home Learning experience was different for everyone. Well done to you all for keeping in contact with the school. We know that each child will react differently to the return to school. I want to assure you that the staff will proceed gently.

We do not expect the return to school to be a return to normality as we knew it but we will all work together so that it will happen in an orderly and safe way.

We all must remain vigilant and continue to manage the risks of Covid-19.

In order to do this, the school has put together a Covid-19 Response Plan which is available to read on our website [www.stpetersschool.ie](http://www.stpetersschool.ie).

The key points of the plan are outlined below. **Please read the following points carefully.**

#### **Response Plan - Key Points:**

***For further information about each point, the section of the plan is referenced in brackets.***

#### **Returning from holidays abroad (Section 4)**

- Children who return from holidays abroad **are not to attend school** if they have not **fully completed a 14-day self-isolation process.**

#### **Minimising the risk of introduction of Covid-19 into school (Section 5 & 5.1))**

- Children that have any symptoms (high temperature; cough; shortness of breath or breathing difficulties; loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste) **are not to attend school.** You should phone your doctor and follow HSE guidance on self-isolation in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

#### **Arrival & Departure (Section 5.4)**

##### ***School drop off/collection***

**School starting time is 9.10. In order to observe social distancing measures, we are asking you not to drop your children to school any earlier than 9am.**

##### **Pupils Walking to School**

All Pupils who walk to school enter the school via the gate on Abbey Lane (side gate). They then turn left and walk through the playground yard, past the playhouse, onto the back yard and enter the school through the green back door. They hand sanitize at the door and then they go directly to their classroom.

### **Pupils Who Come to School by Car**

All Pupils who come to school by car enter the school via the front gate. They then enter the school through the front door. They hand sanitize at the door and go directly to their classroom.

### **Pupils Who Come to School by Bus**

All Pupils who come to school by bus enter the school via the gate at the front of the school that leads to the ramp. They walk up the ramp, turn right and walk past the bicycle shed, onto the back yard and enter the school through the back door and in through the toilet area. They hand sanitize at the door and go directly to their classroom.

Parents **should not** enter the school building to accompany their child to the classroom.

### **End of School 2:50 and Exit of Building**

Children will be released class by class.

Teachers will make 4 groups in their classrooms: those going home by *car*, by *bus*, *walking* or *Afterschool's club*. Teacher opens the class door and when the stairs is free she leads her class down the stairs. At the bottom of the stairs the teacher lets the 4 groups exit by the entrance they used that morning (*Afterschool club use the front door*) and returns back up the stairs. The teacher does not go outside unless they are on home time duty.

Parents should not enter the school grounds to collect their children.

### **Please observe social distancing while you are waiting and avoid congregating at the gate.**

#### **Collecting your child during school hours / accessing the school (Section 4.7)**

- Parents should notify the school beforehand so that we can arrange for children to be collected at the front entrance. Children returning to school from, for example, an appointment, should be brought to the reception area where Yvonne (school secretary) or another member of staff will bring them to their classroom.
- Visitors will be restricted to essential purposes and limited to those who have obtained prior approval from the school.
- **A contact log will be kept at the main entrance to help with contact tracing.**

#### **Physical Distancing (Section 5.4)**

- The risk of infection may be reduced by structuring pupils and their teachers into Class Bubbles (i.e. a class grouping which stays apart from other classes as much as possible) and discrete groups or "Pods" within those class bubbles, to the extent that this is practical.
- Staff members will wear face coverings where a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. Children will not be required to wear face coverings under any circumstances. (Minister for Education 7th August)

## **Break Times**

Staggered break times and outdoor access – there will be two break times i.e. 5 classes on yard at any one break.

- **Morning break: 10.30 to 10.40 and 10.55 to 11.05**
- **Lunch break: 12.30 to 12.55 and 1.00 to 1.25**

Children should be encouraged to perform hand hygiene before and after outdoor activities.

## **Hand Hygiene (Section 5.3)**

- Hand sanitisers are available in every room and at entrance / exit points.
- Hand washing: soap and warm water is available in each room.
- Sharing of personal items is not recommended therefore we ask all children to have their own lunchbox, water bottle, pencil-case, colours, ruler, etc. (washable pencil-case advisable).
- Please place book rental/art and craft/music payments into an envelope with your child's name and the exact amount clearly written on the envelope.

## **School Uniform (Section 4)**

- Children can wear their uniform. They should take it off when they arrive home and not wear it to other events/settings. It might be helpful to air the uniform each evening.

## **Cleaning in School (Section 7)**

- The school will be cleaned every evening (Monday to Friday) - classrooms, corridors, door handles, wash hand basins, toilet facilities, pupils' desks and chairs. Soap dispensers and paper towel dispensers will be checked and refilled if necessary.

## **Signage (Section 4.4)**

- The school will display signage outlining the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and to support good hand and respiratory hygiene.

## **Dealing with a Suspected Case (Section 8)**

- Children should not attend school if displaying any symptoms.
- Parents will be contacted immediately - please make sure we have an alternative contact number for you in the event that you cannot be contacted on the number provided.
- Children will wait in a designated Isolation Room or the school veranda until collected.

### **Information for parents & pupils (Section 4.1)**

- A national information campaign to support parents and pupils will happen in advance of schools reopening on issues such as COVID-19 awareness and to help minimise the risk of introduction and spread of the virus in schools.

Best wishes,

**Anne Fagan  
Principal**

**Tom O' Connor  
Chairperson BOM**