***Important information for parents on return to school 2020***

The following guidelines have been devised following advice from DES. They are ***subject to change*** and are underpinned by our risk assessment and Covid19 policy (both available on website under publications – policies tab)

We are delighted to be in a position to welcome our students and staff back to school. However, this year will be different and we will need the cooperation of all families, students and staff to make it as safe and happy as possible. To this end, the following procedures are in place

* **School arrival:** Children arriving by **bus will be received at 8.50** and brought directly to their classroom. **All other pupils should arrive only between 9 and 9.10 am**. This will ensure that there is no overcrowding or congregation. Children will be met by staff on yard and brought to their class where a teacher will receive them.
* Parents are encouraged to **let children walk independently from their cars** with the exception of junior infants who may be dropped off at the school gate. **Parents should not come inside the school gate.**
* **If a parent wishes to come to the building, they should make a prior appointment** by ringing the office on 0402 37596. The same goes for dropping off any forgotten items such as lunch. ***Access to school is strictly reserved for essential purposes only.***
* **For school collection**, those for the **school bus will leave school at 2.30** to alight the bus. **All other students will leave at 2.40.** For independent children, please arrange with them to walk to you at your car. If you come to the gate to collect children, please remain socially distanced from other parents as we release children in an orderly fashion.
* Until further notice, **homework** will be limited to non book activity. This will include online reading, spellings and online activities.
* The water fonts in the yard will be out of action until further notice so children should bring enough water to school. School water bottles are available from the office for 4e.
* Payments (book rental etc) may still be made with cash in sealed envelopes. These envelopes will not be opened for three days and receipts will be provided upon request via email after this period. Lodgement details can be made available as an alternative. Please call the office for details.
* The wearing of full **uniform** is promoted but there will be a more relaxed approach as cleanliness must take precedence. Appropriate, warm clothing may be worn if uniforms are in the wash. We recognise the **need for increased washing** in this climate.
* The sharing **of art materials** is not recommended so please add the following to your child’s stationery list: one thick painting brush and one thin painting brush. Older children would benefit from having a mid thickness brush also. Each child should have a safety scissors suitable to their age. Children in junior and senior infants should bring two small pots of playdough. A cup type holder should be brought in also to house these items. Children’s names should be clearly visible on all these individual items. Children should also bring a plastic box to hold individual items and to prevent items becoming mixed up.
* ***We must work together to ensure that we do not allow for any infection to spread in our school. Please keep your child at home if they display any of the following symptoms:***
* [***a fever (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above)***](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/fever-in-adults.html)
* [***a cough***](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/cough.html)***- this can be any kind of cough, not just dry***
* [***shortness of breath***](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/shortness-of-breath.html)***or breathing difficulties***
* [***loss or change to your sense of smell or taste***](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/lost-or-changed-sense-of-smell.html)

***Please note that children displaying these symptoms will be sent home from school.***

***If you suspect that your child or family members have Covid symptoms, please inform school by calling the office on 0402 37596 and asking for Ms. Russell***

***We are grateful for your support and cooperation as we prepare for the safest return to school possible.***