

## **Response Plan for the Re-opening of Saint Patrick's Infants School**

The Board of Management and the School Leadership Team have been working to ensure a safe return to school for all pupils and staff. We have now finalised our plans for drop-off and collection of the children every day.

Saint Patrick's Infants School appreciates your support as we try to safely reopen the school building. If at all possible we request you not to come into the school building unless it is essential. Parents are not permitted into the school building and are asked to only enter the school grounds to reach their allocated drop off and collection point. Working together we hope to be able to progress the reopening in as safe a manner as possible for all.

Please contact Anne (Principal), the Office, Ronan HSCL or Kirsten SCP if you have any questions or concerns.

We are all very excited and looking forward to meeting your children and yourselves digitally/remotely (via Aladdin/phone/email).

Please practice handwashing, toileting, putting on coats and talk about school as fun with your child. The more they are prepared the easier it will be. To that end reassure them that you will be outside the entrance when school is over and please be there on time! Also bear in mind that everything may change at short notice as the guidelines are updated.

We ask all parents to familiarise themselves with the following drop-off and collection routines for the safe delivery and collection of pupils from school. Please be patient as we endeavour to embed these necessary precautionary and protective practices at the beginning of the school year.

### **Aims**

- All children will return to school and classes will operate as a bubble.
- Within each bubble, the children will be further divided into pods in the classroom.
- The day will include 2 breaks.
- Hand sanitisers will be available at all entry points, class rooms, support rooms, ancillary rooms and the halla.

### **Social distancing**

Social distancing should be respected by all in the school, where possible. 2m ideally, or 1 m as per DES Guidelines, should be maintained by all persons where possible. It is imperative that

- adults respect social distancing.
- parents do not request meetings with members of staff in the at drop-off and collection times – meetings between parents and teachers can only take place by prior arrangement.
- all parents adhere to the drop-off and collection plans as outlined below

### **Return to School**

Monday August 24th: Senior Infants attending our summer camp

Thursday August 27<sup>th</sup>: Junior Infants will attend in small groups, for 15 minute visits.

Monday August 31<sup>st</sup>: Senior Infants not attending our summer camp

Specific details have been forwarded to parents.

Parents are welcome to accompany Junior Infants and Senior Infants to the school door each day.

Due to current restrictions parents will not enter the school premises.

We encourage all parents to leave as soon as is practicably possible.

School staff will be available to assist and support parents and pupils.

### **School opening times**

The school building will open at 8.30a.m. every morning.

Class teachers will be in the school reception area to collect pupils and accompany the children to their classrooms.

### **Entry Points**

Junior and Senior Infants will use the main front door.

Rooms 19 and 20 will walk along the path by their classroom and will enter the school via the classroom emergency doors at the back of the building.

Please see our video at <https://stpatricksinfants.net/droppingcollectingfromschool/>

### **Departure from school**

Pupils will leave the school in organized groups from 1p.m. onwards.

It is crucial to the success of this plan that parents arrive on time but not too early and leave promptly.

### **Collecting your child**

Parents/guardians will remain behind the line outside of the exits and pupils will walk to this area.

Parents are not permitted to enter the school building.

Staff members will supervise and organize departure.

The school office must be contacted if you wish to collect your child early.

### **When your child is in school**

- Pupils and Staff will wash their hands regularly in accordance with the HSE guidelines and use correct sneezing and coughing techniques
- All staff will wear a mask as per the current guidelines
- Breakfast and Lunch will be provided in each Bubble so please let the class teacher know if your child has any dietary requirements

### **Class Bubbles**

Each class is a bubble.

Each yard will be organized to ensure that class groups (Bubbles) will not mix with other class groups while playing at yard times.

Pupils from each class bubble are permitted to mix freely outdoors at lunchtime but are not permitted to mix with pupils in other classes.

Classes enter and exit through the assigned doors.

### **Parking**

Only staff cars are permitted in the school grounds. **No other vehicles may enter the school grounds during the school day.**

### **School Uniforms**

A certain amount of flexibility will be allowed. Pupils may wear school uniforms, school tracksuits or other informal attire on Wednesdays as similar to the uniform as possible, to enable the more frequent washing of uniforms.

Daily washing of uniforms is not mandatory.

### **Parent/Teacher Communication**

Aladdin and text-a-parent will be used as a means of communication between home and school when necessary.

Parents and teachers may communicate, when necessary, through the office.

021 4551593 / [office@stpatrickinfants.ie](mailto:office@stpatrickinfants.ie)

### **Safe School Attendance and Children who should not attend school**

- **under NO circumstances is a parent/guardian to bring a child to schools if:**
  - the child has been diagnosed with Covid-19
  - the child has been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19.
  - the child has a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending.

- the child has been in contact with a person who has a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending.
- the child displays any HSE designated COVID-19 symptoms. For example, cold, cough or flu like symptoms....

Further information on COVID-19 symptoms in children is available at: –

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/if-your-child-has-symptoms.html>

- the child has returned to Ireland from a country that is not on the 'Green List' and therefore requires them to restrict their movements for 14 days
- the child has an underlying health condition and has been directed by a medical professional not to attend school
- Should a parent/guardian be in any doubt, please visit [hse.ie](https://www2.hse.ie) OR phone HSE Live 1850 24 1850 OR contact your GP before sending your child to school.
- Please wear tracksuit/uniform Monday and Tuesday. WWWW – Wear What you Want Wednesdays and tracksuit/uniform Thursday and Friday. Please change out of school clothes after school and wash if possible.
- Tracksuits will be on sale this Thursday from 10am onwards.
- Please give your child a proper (water only) filled water bottle which has his/her name on it for his/her use only which will go home each day for washing and refilling with water.
- Bring school books in a labelled carrier/shopping bag to the class teacher and leave the Busy at Maths pupil home book at home for homework.
- There will be no transfer of materials from home to school or school to home except your child's water bottle which will only be handled by him/her.
- Please use Velcro on shoes as staff cannot tie laces and will ask children to do so themselves or tuck laces in. Likewise with coats – please ensure your child can tie coats, buttons etc. Please keep coats and shoes clean.

### **Dealing with a Suspected Case Procedures**

Isolation areas will be located in allocated rooms in the school.

Pupils displaying any or complaining of symptoms will be accompanied by a staff member to this area immediately and a Parent/Guardian will be contacted.

The Principal and Parent/Guardian will be informed.

Both child and accompanying adult will wear a mask.

Temperature will be taken.

Parent/Guardian will be contacted immediately and pupil will be sent home as soon as possible regardless of temperature.

A member of staff will remain with the pupil until they are collected.

The isolation area and the child's classroom will be deep cleaned after each incident.

#### **Shared resources/books, etc.**

Each pupil will have their own pencils, colours etc. These must be kept in own pod and should not be shared with classmates. A separate home-based pencil case is advisable but not mandatory.

Baskets will be purchased for the pupils by the school.

The school will provide tissues and hand sanitisers.

Pupils will hang their coats on their own hooks while in class.

**Pupils are requested to bring all books (except Busy at Maths home book) to school in a labelled carrier bag on the first day. These will be stored in the classroom.**

#### **Park and Stride**

Pupils are encouraged to walk to school, where possible, to help alleviate traffic congestion close to the school.

#### **Health and safety within the school building**

The Board of Management/Covid Response Team and management of the school have carried out a full risk assessment. This will be revisited regularly in view of current developments.

#### **The Office**

Only our school Secretary and Principal are permitted in the school office.

#### **Cleaning**

Each classroom will be deep cleaned and disinfected professionally each day after school.

#### **PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)**

Staff members who are attending to particular care needs or who are administering first aid will wear PPE including gloves and face masks. It is also recommended that staff wear face coverings where a distance of 2m cannot be maintained.

#### **Homework**

*Our homework policy is being reviewed in light of the pandemic.*

*However pupils will not get homework initially.*

*Updates will follow.*

