

St. Patrick's Boys' N.S.
Buachaillí,
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Scoil Phádraig Naofa
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August 27th 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I hope you all had a lovely summer break and are looking forward to the start of the Autumn term next Wednesday.

As you are aware, society is at a different stage in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic, however, as the majority of primary school children are currently not vaccinated, most of the same routines and procedures introduced last year will continue into this year. Our updated reopening plan can be found on our website or by [clicking here](#). Please read it carefully. Some important points can also be found on the overleaf. The Department of Education have also published some helpful resources for parents and these can be [accessed via this link](#).

Please read the following information relating to reopening our school next week.

Drop of and collection times: Arrangements for morning and evening drop-off and collection will remain the same. Supervision will be provided from 8.35am on the school yards. School begins at 8.50am. **No parent, apart from those walking through with St Patrick's Girls' pupils and Junior Infant parents initially, will be allowed past the inner green gate at the front of the school, or the end of the green fence at the rear of the school.** Junior infants will be going home at 12pm until Monday the 20th of September. Senior infants will go home at 1.30pm with first, second and third classes at 2.25pm. Fourth, fifth and sixth classes will finish at 2.30pm.

Aladdin Connect: Aladdin Connect is the messaging service that we will be using for the coming year. Please ensure that all parent(s)/guardian(s) are signed up to the app, have validated their number and ticked 'personal device' when downloading onto your mobile phone. This service is fully integrated with attendance data, report cards, permissions for school activities and trips and also online learning if necessary. ***It is vital that you sign up fully to the service.***

Phone numbers, personal data like medical information, change of address etc will be done by you on the app unlike previous years where we sent out paper requests. If you have any difficulty, please call Cliona in the school office.

Return to School Parental Declaration Form: Please complete the return to school parental declaration form through the Aladdin connect app prior to starting on Wednesday.

Class teachers: We are pleased to welcome Ms Aoife Ní Cheallaigh to our staff this year. She will be teaching 6th class. Miss Hogan who worked in special education and third class last year, will now be teaching 2nd class. We wish them well.

Aladdin Payments: You will have received a text link to pay your arts/crafts/photocopying and insurance fees for the beginning of the school year. We would greatly appreciate it if you would pay this in as timely a manner as is possible. This money is spent directly on resources for your children.

Book Rental: Payment for book rental was taken in June. If you haven't paid and would like to avail of the service, please contact the school immediately. For those who subscribed to the scheme, books will be handed out next week. Booklists are published on the parents' section of our school website or [by clicking here](#).

Sanitiser packs: As per last year, please provide your child with a sanitiser pack including a small bottle of hand sanitiser, tissues, a hand towel and wipes in a sealed bag. This will help to reduce movement within the classroom during the school day and promote good personal hygiene.

Labelling possessions: It is important that as best you can that you label all of your son's possessions in school, particularly those that could get mixed up or previously would have been open for sharing. Mynametags.ie are one of a number of companies that provide very durable tags which could be used for jumpers, pencils, sharpeners etc. and have shown to last. This may be cheaper and less hassle than locating missing jumpers etc.

Uniforms: Please ensure that your child wears his correct uniform from the beginning of the school year. Note that the school tracksuit leggings should not have a label or logo.

Social Distancing and Mask Wearing: Parents should **maintain social distance and wear face coverings at all times** while in the vicinity of the school. Given the higher risk of transmitting the virus, it is important that we adhere to this practice along with the **avoidance of congregating with other parents** at all times. The Department of Education and Skills have issued extensive guidance on preventing the spread of the virus in their 'Response Plan for Reopening Primary Schools'. [Please refer to section 5 of this document for more information, by clicking here](#).

Signs and Symptoms of Covid-19: It is critically important that you **do not send your child to school if they are sick and/or showing symptoms** of the Covid-19 virus.

Common symptoms of coronavirus include:

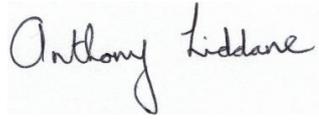
- a fever (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above).
- a new cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry.
- shortness of breath or breathing difficulties.
- loss or change in your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- Fatigue
- Aches and Pains

Other uncommon symptoms of coronavirus include:

- sore throat
- headaches
- runny or stuffy noses
- feeling sick or vomiting or diarrhoea

Wishing you all the best for the year ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony Liddane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

Anthony Liddane

Principal