

*St. Patrick's Boys' N.S.
Dublin Road,
Limerick
V94NX84*



*Scoil Phádraig Naofa Buachailí,
Bóthar Átha Cliath,
Luimneach.
Roll No.: 16443A*

*Tel.: (061) 412913
www.stpatricksgboysns.com
info@stpatricksgboysns.com
Facebook: St Patrick's Boys' N.S.*

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our main aim is to prevent the risk of infection coming in to school and we cannot do this without your help!

The School Reopening Plan which is available on the School Website, lists in detail all the measures that are being put in place to ensure the safety of the school community. This Plan should be read in full. Below is a list of some of the key measures to keep your child safe.

Please discuss the plan with your child and explain to him that all of the adjustments in routine are done to keep him and others safe.

I urge you to practice hand hygiene with your child as outlined in the plan over the coming days.

In spite of the many challenges that we have and will face over the coming months, we are looking forward to meeting with the pupils next week and restarting formal teaching and learning.

Measures to keep your child safe:

- Drop in the morning will be from 8.35. Please do not drop before this time. Children will enter the school building using different entrances.
- Staff will be on the yard, at entrances and in classrooms during the first weeks of reopening to guide your child to their class in the morning.

Entrance and Exit Points	Number
Front right of school (by 2 nd class which is now Junior Infants)	1
Front left of school (by reception)	2
Entrance on Frank Hogan's side	3
Emergency exit/entrance from 4 th class	4
Entrance near the back gate	5

Teacher	Class	Entrance & Exit Point	Designated waiting (if arriving before 8.35am) and collection area
Mrs O'Meara	Jun Inf (now located inside the normal entry door in the morning by the flag poles (2 nd class last year)	1	Morning and Evening: Outside the class' window on the Junior Yard by red marked ground.
Miss O'Grady	Sen Inf	5	Morning and Evening: The Zone on the yard immediately beside the playground.
Mr Murray	1 st Class	5	Morning and Evening: Middle of Junior yard. 2 nd zone from the front of the school.

Mr Ryan	2 nd Class	2 (Morning) 1 (Evening)	Morning: Senior yard (2 nd class are now in a class on the senior side of the school, what was previously 4 th class) Do not walk through the car park. Evening: By the red marked area close to the flag poles.
Miss White	3 rd Class	2	Morning: Outside 3 rd class window in play area Evening: Area by the ramp outside main reception extending towards the playground
Miss Lynch	4 th Class	4	Morning and Evening: Outside side entrance on Frank Hogan's side
Miss Williams	5 th Class	3	Morning: Drop and go at either gate Evening: Parent's/guardians to remain outside the gate
Mr Shanagher	6 th Class	2	Morning: Drop and go at either gate Evening: Parent's/guardians to remain outside the gate

- Yellow dots have been marked on the yard to facilitate parents maintaining 2M distance while waiting for your child.
- Throughout the school there will be hand sanitizers provided which staff and children will be required to use when entering and exiting the building and classrooms. Pupils and staff will be asked to regularly wash their hands while in school.
- To promote good personal hygiene and personal responsibility, children will be asked to bring in the following in a small bag:
 - Small bottle of sanitiser
 - Wipes
 - Tissues which they can use during the day.
 - A clean face cloth in a zip lock bag changed every day.
- **Children in 1st, 2nd and 3rd classes will be collected at 2.25pm each day.** All other classes will be the normal 1.30pm for infants and 2.30pm for 4th, 5th and 6th classes.
- Movement around the school will be kept to a minimum and all staff and pupils will keep a safe distance from each other and 'keep left'. 1m between pupils and 2m between adults where possible This physical distancing measure will not apply to pupils in JI to 2nd Class.
- Staff will wear either a visor, a face mask or both especially in instances where a 2m distance cannot be maintained.
- Classes will be confined to mixing with only their own class group (Bubbles).
- Within each class, the children will be grouped into pods which will be distanced 1 metre from the next pod. This physical distancing measure will not apply to pupils in JI to 2nd Class, however, pupils in these classes will be placed into groups.
- Children will be required to use their own resources e.g. books, pencils, scissors etc. and sharing of resources will not be allowed.

- All books and equipment should be brought to school on the first day where initially, they will remain for use in school only, to avoid home/school cross contamination.
- Written homework will not be given at the start of the year and books will remain in school. We will review oral and written homework in September.
- Sharing of lunches or drinks will not be allowed.
- During break time, classes will be allocated a zone to play within while on the yard.
- No whole school activities such as assemblies or before and after school activities/clubs will take place initially.
- Staff will maintain a regular cleaning routine of all shared resources and materials that will be used by different pods or classes.
- The school will be cleaned daily by school cleaners, following all government guidelines, advice and checklists.
- If your child becomes ill in school with any of the symptoms of covid-19, they will be immediately cared for in an isolation room where they will remain until they are collected. They must be collected as soon as possible.

How can you help?

- You should not, under any circumstances send your child to school if they have a temperature, a cough, loss of smell/taste or have any kind of shortness of breath. If in doubt whether you should send your child to school or not, please err on the side of caution.
- Check your child's temperatures before school each day. If you do not consent to us taking his temperature, please contact the school office prior to school starting.
- Pupils must be kept at home for 14 days after returning from a country not on the green list.
- Practise the respiratory and hand hygiene measures with your child. (See information sheet attached)
- Pupils should wear their school uniform or school tracksuit to school and remove it when they get home. It should be kept for school use only and washed regularly.
- Morning Drop Off – please ensure your child arrives to school between 8.35am and 8.50am
- Pupils are encouraged to walk to school where possible.
- Adults should maintain a 2m distance and everyone should keep right when moving around.
- Leave the school grounds immediately after drop-off and collection. Do not stand and block any pedestrian walkways.
- To pick up a child during school hours, please phone first. This should only be done in exceptional circumstances.
- There is no access to the school building for parents or visitors, bar exceptional circumstances.
- You can communicate with your child's teacher by via class dojo. Please ensure that you follow the teacher's instruction in setting this up if you haven't done so already.
- Do not allow your child to bring any personal items, which are not necessary for school, in to school e.g. toys, teddies etc.

- All books and equipment, should be labelled. Books and copies should be covered in wipeable plastic coverings. (Book Rental Books and Workbooks will be covered)
- An payments system has been set up to minimise the amount of cash that needs to be handled. Parents/Guardians are asked to co-operate in helping to keep school staff safe in this regard. If paying online is not possible, please place the required money in an envelope with your child's name and what the payment is for written on the envelope.
- Home Time Collection – please ensure you arrive for Home Time Collection at the allocated time. Adults should wait at the collection zone 2m apart using the yellow dots. Please ask your child to inform their teacher if you wish for them to walk home or if you have an alternative collection point arranged with them.
- Please ensure that your contact details which you have given to the school are up to date and please provide an emergency contact also. At least one contact must be available at all times.

Hygiene Etiquette

- **Respiratory Hygiene:**

All members of the school community will practise respiratory hygiene to limit the spread of the virus:

- avoid touching the face, eyes, nose and mouth
- cover coughs and sneezes with an elbow or a tissue
- dispose of tissues in a covered bin

- **Hand Hygiene:**

Sanitiser, antibacterial soap and warm water is available throughout the school

Pupils and staff should perform hand hygiene i.e. wash their hands with antibacterial soap or use hand sanitiser:

- before leaving home
- before and after being on public transport
- when arriving/leaving the school /other sites
- before and after eating and preparing food
- after coughing or sneezing
- after using the toilet
- where hands are dirty
- before and after wearing gloves
- after touching potentially contaminated surfaces
- if in contact with someone displaying any COVID-19 symptoms