



22nd August, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I'm writing to you today to highlight key points before our return to school on Thursday, 27th August.

1. St. Mary's NS has worked very hard and invested heavily in order to ensure that the school is as safe as possible for both pupils and staff.
2. Please take note of starting and finishing times, entry and exit points, parent waiting areas etc. outlined for all classes on the attached document.
3. Visuals detailing play spaces/ parent waiting areas are also attached.
4. At arrival times:
 - Parents/Guardians of 1st-6th Class pupils are not permitted on the school grounds. 1st-6th Class pupils should enter the school grounds independently.
 - Parents of Junior and Senior Infant pupils may escort their child to the appropriate entrance door and leave promptly.
 - No adults, other than staff members, are permitted to enter the school building.
 - Pupils should proceed directly to their class via their designated entrance point at the appropriate time.
5. At dismissal times:
 - For Junior Infants – 2nd Class: The class teacher will bring the children to their designated dismissal point and will release the children into the care of the adult who is there to collect them. We ask that only 1 adult come to collect pupils. All adults waiting for pupils must adhere to a social distance of 2m.
 - For 3rd – 6th Class: The class teacher will bring the children to their designated dismissal point and the children will exit the school grounds independently via the gate outlined on the attached document. Adults collecting 3rd-6th Class pupils are not permitted to wait on the school grounds. All parents are asked to remind children each morning who is collecting them that day and where the child should meet the collector.
 - Children and parents should leave the school grounds promptly at the end of the school day.
6. Parents wishing to speak with a teacher should email the teacher directly or phone the school.
7. Hygiene and Cleaning: Sanitiser, soap and hand towel dispensers have been installed throughout the school. The school has undergone a thorough deep clean. Warm water and soap are available in all the bathrooms. Additional cleaning will take place daily. Hand hygiene will be promoted and encouraged, and parents/guardians are asked to support the school reinforcing all hygiene messages.
8. Uniforms/Tracksuits: Uniforms should be worn every day, except on P.E. days, or when otherwise requested by teachers. All parents will be informed of P.E. days by class teachers. Uniforms or tracksuits should be taken off straight after your daughter arrives home from school for the day. They should not be worn in after-school facilities, shops, during after-school activities, etc.



9. Every effort will be made to accommodate pupils who are medically vulnerable. Please inform us if your daughter will not be returning to school at this time as she is in a very high risk category.
10. **27th August, 2020:** As per tradition all classes will finish early on the first day of term. The following is the plan outlining starting and finishing times for **Thursday, 27th August.**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Start time</u>	<u>Finish Time</u>
Ms. Lynch's Junior Infants	9.30	12.00
Ms. McCarthy's Junior Infants	9.30	12.00
Ms. McCarthy's Senior Infants	9.05	12.20
Ms. Kelleher's Senior Infants	9.05	12.20
Ms. Gilley's 1 st Class	8.50	12.10
Ms. Hallahan's 1 st /2 nd Class	8.50	12.10
Mrs. Kelly's 2 nd Class	8.50	12.10
Ms. Quinlan's 3 rd Class	8.50	12.10
Mrs. Lane's 3 rd Class	8.50	12.10
Ms. Greally's 4 th Class	9.05	12.30
Ms. McElhinney's 4 th Class	9.05	12.30
Ms. Walsh's 5 th Class	8.50	12.10
Mrs. Murphy's 5 th /6 th Class	9.05	12.30
Ms. Fitzgerald's 6 th Class	9.05	12.30

Collection procedures outlined will apply everyday including 27th August.

11. Children should bring their book rental books from last year and their new books purchased by families for this year with them to school on the first day. Children should also bring any CAPER books or school library books they still have from last year.

The safety of all is our number one priority at this time. Our success will depend on each of us playing our part. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our pupils back to St. Mary's. I thank you all, in advance for your co-operation and support.

Le gach dea-ghuí,
Fiona O'Callaghan
Principal