

01st September 2020

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St. Enda's National School

Dear Parents,

A warm welcome back to all pupils and staff. We would also like to welcome the new Junior Infants and pupils who entered different classes throughout the school. We would like to thank you for your co-operation to date and look forward to working with you as we support the children as they adapt to the necessary changes.

The classroom staffing allocation is as follows:

Junior Infants/Senior Infants: Mrs. Eilish O Donoghue (Class teacher)

Senior Infants/First Class: Ms Helen Colfer (Class teacher)

Second & Third: Ms. Lisa Carkill (Class teacher)

Fourth & Fifth: Ms. Lorraine Canavan (Class teacher)

Fifth & Sixth: Mr. M.J. Malone (Principal)

Special Education Teachers/Language Support: Mrs. Olivia Cahill, Mrs. Edel Lernihan, Ms Regina Pender & Ms Máire Nunan

SNA: Ms Catherine Sides, Ms Eilish Honan, Mr Danny Shields & Marie Commane

School Updates

School Day

School will begin at the usual time of 9:10 for all pupils however there are changes to the drop off routine in order to comply with Department guidelines. Pupils will no longer be allowed to congregate in the yard before school begins. The drop-off period is from 9:00 to 9:10. No pupil should be in the yard prior to 9:00. When a pupil arrives at school they have to go straight to their classroom, there is no more lining up in the yard. Each classroom (bubble) uses a separate entry and exit point in order to keep each bubble self-contained in as much as possible as outlined in Department guidelines. Parents of Junior and Senior Infants will be permitted in the school yard however we would ask all other parents not to congregate in the school yard before or after school.

To minimise interaction between class bubbles (classrooms), pupils enter and exit the school building through the door assigned to their class in the morning, evening and break times. The doors will have signs on them indicating which door each class should use.

- ⇒ 5th and 6th class (Mr. Malone) will use the main school door by the office
- ⇒ 5th and 4th class (Ms. Canavan) will use the double door at the front of the hall facing the garden
- ⇒ 3rd and 2nd class (Ms. Carkill) will use the main door to the hall up the steps
- ⇒ 1st class and Senior Infants (Ms. Colfer) will use the far down entrance to the school by the girls toilet block
- ⇒ Senior Infants and Junior Infants will use infants room door around the corner opposite the astro turf

We would ask parents to use the full length of the path in front of the school when waiting to collect your child/children and please adhere to social distancing guidelines.

Please make sure that your child knows who is picking them up from school. If there are any changes during the day please contact the office and we will let your child know. Please remember that punctuality in collecting your child is very important.

School Office

Mrs. Lourda Dunne is the school secretary. The office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9.30a.m. – 3.30p.m. The best time to telephone the school is after 9.30a.m. Please leave a voicemail if the phone is unattended.

Parking

We realise parking is a problem, however in the interest of pupil safety, please do not park in the bus parking space as the bus needs to collect and drop off the pupils from this area.

Uniforms

Pupils are required to wear their full uniform everyday. The only exception to this rule is when they must wear a tracksuit and runners for P.E. Pupils may wear grey shorts and blue polo shirts during hot weather and should wear vests and jackets if it is cold. Please label all uniforms and jackets. The school crest is available to purchase from the office for €3.50. Crests should be ironed onto the left hand side of cardigans/jumpers.

Mobile phones

Pupils are not allowed to bring mobile phones to school. Any urgent messages for pupils can be relayed through the office.

Attendance

If your child is absent please complete the absence section for your child in the Aladdin Connect App (this will appear on your child's profile once attendance is taken at school). Schools are obliged to report school attendance since the commencement of the Education Welfare Act. Please note that if a pupil misses 20 days or more the school attendance officer will be notified.

If a child displays any Covid like symptoms the HSE/Department of Education directive is that that child must remain at home.

In order to prevent the spread of Covid-19 it is important to know and recognise the symptoms.

They are:

- High temperature
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- Loss of smell, of taste, or distortion of taste

(<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a0bff-reopening-our-primary-and-special-schools/#covid-19-response-plan-for-safe-reopening-of-primary-and-special-schools>)

The challenge is that the Covid-19 symptoms are common symptoms for many other illnesses. In order to ensure that our school stays open if your child displays any of the above symptoms or is sick in general the school setting is not the place for them while families evaluate what the next steps are. We are aware that this may be very challenging for families to make last minute arrangements for child care and balance work commitments, however the ability for the school to remain open will rest on these decisions. **It is by working together and supporting each other that we can ensure our school remains open.** If a child displays any Covid like symptoms or is sick while at school we will bring the child to the isolation area and immediately contact parents as per HSE/Department of Education protocols. We will be very conscious that this will need to be done in a child-friendly and caring manner.



Parents Visits to School

If you have any concern about your child, please come and talk to us. As teachers cannot be disrupted during class time, please make an appointment, letting the teacher know your area of concern. This way, we can sit down and give you our full attention. Appointments can be made through the school secretary.

Sign in/Sign out/Contact Tracing

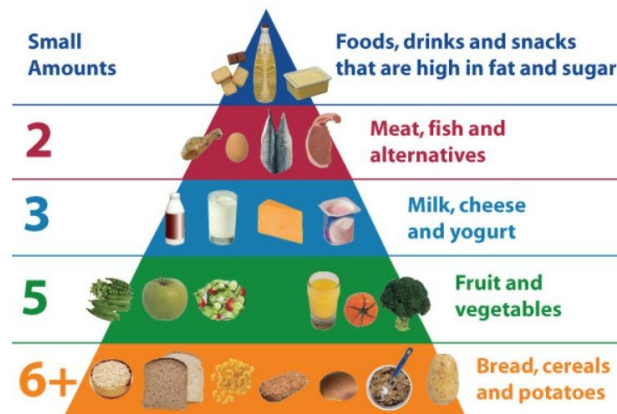
Parents/Guardians who bring pupils to the school or take pupils from the school outside of the set school times, please ring the door bell at the main entrance, your child will be collected from their classroom and brought to you, if you have to enter the school for any reason please wear a face mask & fill in the contact tracing log which is located inside the main entrance. If you need to meet the teacher please make an appointment beforehand.

Healthy lunches Initiative

As part of our Green Schools Programme and Health Promoting Schools Initiative Programme we would like to encourage healthy lunches. Parents/ guardians are encouraged to provide children with a healthy lunch, which helps to maintain their level of concentration in the classroom throughout the day. A Healthy Lunch should include a variety of foods from the bottom four shelves of the Food Pyramid. Healthy eating will improve your child's concentration, performance and eating habits. We do not allow crisps, sweets, chocolate or fizzy drinks etc.

All children should have a lunch box and a reusable drinks container. Children will be asked to bring their waste home as part of our Green Schools Programme.

We are discouraging single use bottles and packaging and would like to encourage all pupils to have lunches that are as waste-free as possible.



Allergies

Please be aware that there are children in our school that can have a severe allergic reaction to peanuts/nuts. This allergic reaction (anaphylactic shock) can occur through ingestion of peanut/nut products, cross contamination and breathing peanuts in the air. We are asking for your help in minimising the risk to these children:

- Do not give your child/children peanuts in school lunches
- Do not give peanut butter sandwiches, spreads containing nuts or foods labelled “may contain nut traces” in school lunches
- Reminding your child/children **not** to share their lunches.

Journals & Homework

School Journals have been distributed to all pupils from 1st to 6th and cost €3 each—An e-payment request will follow on the Aladdin Connect App. Please read over your child's homework each night and sign the homework journal indicating how long it took to complete the homework. Homework includes oral work - reading, tables etc and written work. Homework must be completed neatly. You will find the Code of Behaviour and Homework Guidelines inside each cover of the journal. Please take time to review with your child and sign.

Book Rental

Rental books for children have been distributed. These books are on loan to your child/ren from the school for the current academic year until June 2021. Please note that these books need to be kept in the condition in which they were received.

Insurance

Parents are asked to consider taking out Personal Insurance for their children for the year. There are two options: (a) school activities only €6 (b) 24 hour cover €9. An Insurance form will be emailed to all families. Please have completed forms returned to the school **by Thursday 10th September. On receipt of the insurance form, an e-payment request will follow on the Aladdin Connect App.**

Individual Pupil Expenses

All families are asked to pay the Individual Pupils Expenses for art, craft, photocopying and online subscriptions e.g. Accelerated Reader, Mathletics, Seesaw etc

1 child—€25, 2 children €45 & 3 children or more €60. We would appreciate if this money is paid via e-payments on the Aladdin Connect App by Friday 18th September 2020

Administration of Medicines

Should your child require potential administration of medicine while at school e.g. Inhaler, epipen. Please request an Administration of Medicines form from the office.

Donation of School Books/Library Books

If you are finished using any school books/reading books, we would greatly appreciate it if you would consider donating them to the school. If so please inform the school. Please place them in a bag when dropping to the school.

We would like to thank you for your all co-operation and we look forward to a happy and successful school year.

Yours sincerely,

M.J. Malone
Principal