Re-Opening St Joseph’s C.B.S

Information for Parents

Building Community

St Joseph’s has always been a very busy place, buzzing with activity and all working together to learn, play, pray and grow.

However, Covid 19 has changed how we will have to do things and we will have to learn new ways to build community.

During the first term we will adjust to a new normal and learn to live with changes to our lives.

We are looking forward to returning to school, we are excited about welcoming the children who are starting in St. Joseph’s for the first time. We know that many of us are anxious about making the transition back to classroom and we understand. We are committed to supporting the wellbeing of the St. Joseph’s school community.

This academic year is historic. St. Joseph’s C.B.S will welcome girls to junior infants for the first time. Covid 19 cannot dampen our spirits on this momentous occasion. Céad Míle Fáilte a chailíní!

The information below is subject to change and we will continue to add to existing information as necessary.

The following changes to the operation of the school have been decided in the interests of the Health and Safety of pupils and staff and are in line with the Department of Education and Skills Covid 19 Response Plan

Induction Days

- Teachers will brief pupils on the changes to school life
- Junior infant and 3rd class teachers will introduce their pupils to their new school.
- Children will not bring anything to school with them on that day.
- All outdoor meetings for parents on Thursday 27th and Friday 28th have been cancelled as they are in breach of new Public Health Legislation announced on Tuesday the 18th of August.
Uniform

- The department of Education and Skills has not make any recommendations regarding uniforms and as such the uniform policy remains as has been in previous years.

Infant Classes: tracksuits

1st- 6th classes: tracksuit on PE days and uniform on all other days.

Face- Coverings

- The Department of Education Covid 19 Response Plan states that face coverings are not suitable for children under the age of 13 and as a result may not wear face covering at school.
- Staff may be required to wear face coverings in circumstances where physical distancing is not always possible.

Returning from Abroad

- Children returning from countries that are not on Ireland’s Green List must self-isolate for 14 days before they return to school.

Covid 19 Symptoms

1. High temperature
2. Cough
3. Shortness of breath
4. Loss of taste or smell

- Children are not permitted to attend school if they are experiencing any symptoms of Covid19.
- Staff are not permitted to come to school if they are experiencing any symptoms of Covid 19.
- Parents will be asked to give their consent for their child’s temperature to be taken in the event of their child feeling unwell.
- Any child experiencing symptoms of Covid 19 will be isolated and their parent/guardian contacted to take their child home immediately.
- An isolation room and an overflow isolation space has been outlined as per department guidelines.
- Members of the school community who are experiencing Covid 19 symptoms must isolate at home and contact their GP by phone. Pupils must not return to school until they have received a Covid 19 negative test result or have been symptom free for 72 hours

- In the event of a diagnosis of Covid 19 of a member of the school community or a close contact of a member of the school community the school will be directed by HSE on how to proceed.
Parents and Visitors

- All contact details for parents/guardians of pupils must be up to date.
- Parent/guardians must inform the school of any changes to their children’s contact details.
- Parents/guardians or emergency contacts must be accessible during the school day.
- Parents will not be permitted to enter the school building without a prior appointment.
- Pre-arranged appointments to the school will be a maximum of 15 minutes in duration.
- Visitors to the school will not be permitted to enter the school without a prior appointment.
- Teachers and parents will continue to communicate with each other by letter, phone, email and online platforms.
- All visitors to the school will be required to fill out a contact tracing form.

School Equipment and Facilities

- All stationery, copies and books are to be left in school.
- Pupils will not be permitted to share or use stationery items belonging to other pupils.
- All shared equipment such as i-pads, maths equipment etc. will be sanitised before and after use.
- No items from home will be permitted in school except a school bag containing lunch (if the child is not receiving a school lunch) and a drink.
- The computer room, library and kitchen will be out of use until further notice.
- Pupils leaving their classrooms for tuition will be accompanied by a staff member at all times.
- Pupils will only leave their classrooms for breaks, tuition, toileting, P.E., other outdoor activities and visits to the outdoor classroom.

Covid 19 Prevention and Personal Hygiene

- Children and all school personnel will be required to sanitise their hands on entering and exiting the school and at regular intervals during the day.
- Handwashing and hand hygiene protocols will be taught and revised in all classes.
- Handwashing and hand hygiene protocols must be adhered to in all classes.
- Indoor toilets have been installed in the Green School.
- Coughing and Sneezing Etiquette will be taught, revised and must be adhered to in every class.

Cleaning

- Cleaning in school will be increased. The Department of Education has increased the budget for cleaning and cleaning materials and in line with these guidelines the school will be cleaned thoroughly at least once a day.
- Books, toys and other resources will be cleaned or quarantined for 72 hours before reuse.
Teaching and Learning

- Helping all pupils to make the transition back to school, reconnecting with their teachers and friends and establishing new school routines that support their health and safety will be a priority at the start of the new school year.
- The Department of Education & Skills has published curriculum guidelines for schools and we are advised to pay particular attention to supporting the wellbeing and reducing potential anxiety in our pupils.
- We will plan their learning experiences to take account of the effect the school closure has had on their progress and their engagement in learning.
- The curriculum priorities for the first term of 2020/21 in St. Joseph’s C.B.S will the subject areas of Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE). Languages (English & Irish), Mathematics & Physical Education as per Department of Education Guidelines.

Homework and Digital Learning

- St. Joseph’s will not be assigning homework for the month of September. Any homework assigned after this time will be completed digitally until further notice.
- Online learning platforms will be set up on return to school.

Collection of Children during the School Day

- In the event that a child needs to be collected during the school day the following arrangements will apply:
  - In advance of any adult arriving at the school they should ring the office on 041-9833620
  - The adult must wait for the child in the designated waiting area and the child will be brought to them by a staff member.
  - Early collection will be recorded by a staff member.
  - No adult should enter the building without appointment or invitation.

Children with Additional Needs

- Please contact the school by phone or email if you have concerns about your child returning to or starting school if he or she has additional needs. These could be learning, emotional or medical needs.
- Please contact the school if your child is in a vulnerable or high risk group so that a plan can be put in place to support your child.
- The special education team (SEN) in the school will make sure that your child’s needs are catered for to the best of their ability.
- SEN teachers will be assigned to specific year groups and classes.
- SEN teachers will be required to cover for mainstream teachers in the event of teacher absences.
Yard

- Breaks will be staggered. There will be 3 morning and 3 lunch breaks during each day.
- Each class will be provided with their own play area of the school yard.
- There will be no more than 4 classes in either yard at any given time
- Children will be required to line up in a socially distant formation after every break.
- Children will be required to enter and exit the building at intervals using assigned entrances and exits.
- Sanitisation protocols will be strictly adhered to.

Morning Break
10.30-45am - Junior and Senior Infants - Green Yard (staff room)
11.00-11.15am 1st, 3rd and 4th - Green Yard (staff room)
11.00-11.15am- 5th and 6th - Red Yard (cookery room)

Lunch Break
12-10-12.40pm - Junior and Senior Infants Green Yard
12.45-1.15pm -1st, 3rd and 4th Green Yard
12.45-1.15pm - 5th and 6th Red Yard

First-Aid
- Staff will be required to wear face coverings and PPE while administering first aid.

Before School
- Children will enter the school yard and sanitise their hands at their assigned time and gate before going directly to their classrooms.
- No congregation of children or parents will be permitted in the school yard before school begins.
- Staff will be present to steward children to their classes safely.

After School
- There will be no after school activities and clubs with the exception of the Infant Link Hour until further notice.
- In the interest of safety parents will be permitted to enter a designated area of the green school yard when collecting children from junior infants to fourth class. Parents must leave the school yard promptly when their child has been collected.

Children Travelling by Bus
- Children travelling by bus may enter the school yard from 8.40am and those children not starting until 8.50am will be permitted to wait in a designated area of the school yard until class begins. To avail of this facility parents must inform the school that their child will be travelling to school by bus, sign a consent form to allow this be cross checked with the bus company. In the event of a child’s name not being on the list of ‘bus children’ they will not gain entry to the yard until their appointed time.
• Infants travelling to school on the bus will have a bus buddy appointed to them from the senior classes to assist them (in a physically distant manner) in alighting from the school bus and walking through the gates.

• Children travelling by bus will be permitted to wait for the school bus in the school yard after school under supervision and will be escorted to the bus in the evening by staff.

• Failure to comply with social distancing arrangements and staff instructions while waiting for the bus before or after school may result in a pupil not being permitted to wait for the bus on school grounds.

**Siblings**

• Siblings will be permitted to wait in the Red Yard from 8.40am if their sibling is in junior or senior infants or parents may choose to have siblings arrive in school together at 8.50am and go straight to their respective classes.

• Failure to comply with social distancing arrangements and staff instructions while waiting for their class to begin before school may result in a pupil not being permitted to wait on school grounds.

**The Code of Behaviour**

• The Code of Behaviour will be amended in light of the changes to school life as a result of Covid 19. Failure of pupils to comply with Covid 19 health and safety regulations and instructions from staff will be considered a very serious misdemeanour and will be dealt with accordingly.

Le meas,

*Sarah Bradley*

Principal