

Thursday 26th August 2021.

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope all is well with you and that you are all enjoying the beautiful weather this week. Yes, it is typical, as we get set to return to school, the weather takes a turn for the better! It is just wonderful to have it nonetheless.

The school has been a busy place over the summer months with building works being completed and other associated minor works being carried out. Due to the delay in getting some materials, our new classroom will not be ready for the first two weeks. Our new playground equipment will also be installed in September. Thank you all again for your very generous support of this ongoing fundraiser. Mr. Barry's 2nd/3rd class will use Room 4 for these weeks, with Ms. Mulderrig's 5th temporarily using the prefab. In addition, we are delighted to welcome Mr. Colin Guilfoyle to our team in Clonmoney NS, teaching 3rd/4th class & we wish him well in his role. We are also thrilled that Ms Anne-Marie Griffin will be returning to our school on Monday, as a Special Education teacher on, a job share basis.

Please note, as a parent you are asked to make a return to school declaration on behalf of your child/children on Aladdin Connect before this Monday. Covid 19 is still very much with us. The Department of Education, in consultation with Public Health, has been very clear in how schools should continue to operate as they did at the end of the last term. Each school has been issued with a template for a reopening plan and this plan very much reflects the plan, which was in place in our school during the last school year. This plan goes on for several pages and is attached in full here. The following are the main parts of the plan which you need to take note of regarding the arrival and departure of your children.

Arrival & Collection Arrangements for Pupils

In order to minimise contact between pupils, insofar as possible, the school will operate the following procedures for arrival, dismissal, movement through the school, and break times.

Arrival:

When all staff arrive on the school premises, they will hand sanitise on entry. All staff will have masks/visors made available to them and they wear a mask or visor when they are unable to maintain 2m distancing with others within the school building.

The Principal and/or Secretary will be at the school steps each morning from 8.30 am to receive pupils. No parents will enter beyond these steps.

All teachers will be in their classrooms when pupils enter. Pupils will go directly to their seating area within their own pods.

Again, as pupils enter their classrooms, they will fully hand sanitise.

Classes will begin at 8.50 am. Where pupils come late, they will have to buzz in at the reception area to gain entry. The school appreciates that on odd occasions this will happen due to things beyond the control of parents. The importance of punctuality will however be emphasised to all parents in the current context.

Collection/Departing:

Collection of Infants: Junior Infants will be brought down the pathway by their teacher each day at 1:20pm. Senior Infants will follow at 1:30pm.

Parents of Juniors & Seniors are asked to wear a mask, observe social distancing protocols and wait at the staff parking spaces. Senior Infant parents should wait in their car until all junior infants are gone. When their child is at the top of the line, the parent will be invited to come in through the staff gate entrance, take their child and walk down the pupil entrance path to their car.

Children from 1st to 6th Class; We will continue to operate the same system as last term. The children will come out in their respective class groups chronologically. The first group will come out at 2.25 pm, the next group two minutes later, until 2.35pm. As there are not enough car parking spaces in the car park for a full capacity of cars at the one time, people's cooperation with this simply allows all to depart safely.

During the school year, should you have questions or queries regarding anything, contact Yvonne in the office and your child's teacher will get back to you via phone/email. Like last year, parents are not to come into the school grounds/building. Should you require to do so for some exceptional reason, you are to wear a face covering.

Should your child be showing any symptoms of Covid, you should seek medical advice. Do not send your child into school if he/she is displaying symptoms. Also if there are others in the house who are displaying symptoms and they need to be tested, do not send your children in to school. You were also excellent last year in how all of you dealt with cases where there were other children/people in your house or who were in your child's company who were deemed close contacts - you always contacted the school and took the cautious approach and did not send your children into school in such circumstances. This was much appreciated and I ask you to continue in taking this common-sense approach.

We simply have two aims here in Clonmoney NS when it comes to Covid. One is to keep everyone safe and the other is to keep our school open. By you co-operating with us in doing what is set out, I have no doubt that we will achieve our two aims.

We are all really looking forward to seeing all our boys and girls back in school on this Monday, 30th August. Parents of Junior Infants are asked to wait until 9:05 am to drop their child on the 1st morning. Please note your Juniors are finishing at 12pm

for the first two weeks (up until Sept. 10th). Unfortunately for all others, it's a full day! All of the above information, in relation to COVID & safe reopening is available on our website, under the COVID 19 Procedures tab here

Enjoy the weekend ahead. If you have any queries or matters you would like to discuss, please don't hesitate to contact me or Yvonne in the office.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Mr. David McCormack

Principal

Dept. Videos & Links for Parents:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/#returning-to-school>