



24th February 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your families are all keeping well. I want to congratulate you on the wonderful support you have given to your children during what has been a long period of school closure.

We will be delighted to welcome back to school Junior Infants, Senior Infants, First and Second Classes on Monday, 1st March. Following the government's announcement yesterday, we are busy preparing for the safe and orderly return of children and staff to St. Joseph's.

Children should not come to school if they are displaying any signs or symptoms of COVID-19.

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are

- a fever (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above)
- a new cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry
- shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Children should not return to school

- if they are identified by the HSE as a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 (14 days restricted movement)
- if they are a contact of a suspected case or a contact of a person awaiting a test or a test result
- if they live with someone who has symptoms of the virus
- if they have travelled outside of Ireland (if this is the case, please consult and follow the latest Government advice on foreign travel)

Please continue to refer to HSE.ie for the most up-to-date advice.

Children may arrive to school between 9am and 9.15am and will sanitise their hands before going to their classrooms where they will be met by their teachers. Children will finish school at the following times:

Junior Infants	2pm
Senior Infants	2pm
First Class	2.40pm
Second Class	2.40pm

Entrances and exits will be as they were before Christmas and we ask you to continue to co-operate with our one-way system. **Parents must wear masks at all times** on the school premises and at the school gates. You are asked to exercise physical distancing at all times on the school premises. **Children from 3rd to 6th classes are not to come onto the school premises for any reason (including the collection of younger siblings) until the Government announces their return to school.** Parents are asked to be on time to collect children from school (2pm for Infant Classes, 2.40pm for First and Second Classes)

We opened our school very successfully last September. This was due to the wonderful co-operation of parents, staff and children. We rely on your co-operation to keep our school free of COVID-19. I wish your children a very happy return to school. If I can be of any assistance to you, please feel free to call the school on 046 9021989.

Please also see the website for the arrangements for the return of books on Thursday, 25th February.

I wish you and your families continued good health and I wish your children a very safe and happy return to school. We are looking forward to meeting them all again on Monday morning.

Kindest regards,

Ann Murphy

Principal