

Lisnagry National School



Returning Safely to school- What parents need to know

August 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that this email finds you all well. The BOM and the school staff have been busy working to ensure a safe return to school for all pupils and staff on the 27th August. We appreciate and rely on your support as we try to safely reopen the school building. Our Covid 19 response plan, policy statement and risk assessment will all be available to view on our school website. Attached, however are two documents, one for our pupils and one for you, our parents, outlining all the important information you need to know. The pupils will notice changes around the school including signage, numerous sanitising stations and altered desk arrangements and classroom environments. Please explain to your child prior to starting that this has been done to keep everyone safe.

We would ask all parents to familiarise themselves with the new drop-off and collection routines for the safe delivery and collection of pupils to and from school. If at all possible, we request that you do not come onto the school grounds or into the school building unless it is essential. If you need to, parents must make responsible decisions in relation to wearing a mask particularly if the circumstances arise where you are waiting to collect your child/children and it is not possible to maintain a 2m distance from other people.

Working together we hope to be able to progress the reopening in as safe a manner as possible for all. This is an evolving situation and we may need to adapt, modify or change our approach if necessary as the situation develops. Any changes that have been made are done so with the best intentions of keeping pupils, staff, parents and extended families and the wider school community as safe as possible. Please be patient as we endeavour to embed these necessary precautionary and protective practices at the beginning of the school year.

It is our intention to have staggered drop off and collection times to avoid a large accumulation of cars/people outside the school. We would encourage all parents to stick as rigidly as possible to their times and staff will ensure that children are ready to leave at their times to help minimise the school gate/drop off area.

Staggered Drop Off and Collection Times

If it is possible for families, we ask for co-operation on being punctual for start and home times.

Start Time	Home Time
<p>In an effort to limit the number of people waiting in the school grounds in the morning we are bringing the children into school in alphabetical order.</p> <p>9-9.10am: If your surname begins with A-L</p> <p>9.10-9.20am: If your surname begins with: M-Z</p> <p><u>There will be no outdoor supervision in the mornings. Supervision will not be provided before 9am. Children go straight in their designated doors to their classes where their teachers will supervise them. Children must sanitise at the door and proceed to their classrooms.</u></p>	<p>Similarly for home time, in an effort to limit the number of people waiting outside the school, we have staggered dispersal times.</p> <p>1.50pm: Junior Infants A+B</p> <p>2pm: Senior Infants A+B</p> <p>2.50pm: Children with no siblings in the school in classes 1st – 6th (supervised by SET teachers)</p> <p>3pm: Remaining students in 1st – 6th (supervised by class teachers)</p>
Please stop and drop and go!	Please collect and go to relieve traffic congestion!

We appreciate your co-operation in getting all students to school safely and home safely at their designated times. Parents/Guardians are requested not to congregate in groups or stand around chatting at drop off and collection times. Markings will be provided on the path to facilitate social distancing. Please leave promptly once your child is dropped off in the morning and collected at home time.

Allocated Doors: Entry and Exit Points

Please see below details of the entry and exit points for your child's class each morning and evening.

Class	Entry/Exit
Junior Infants A+B, 3 rd Class B	Enter and exit through the Junior Corridor door beside Junior Infants Room 1.
1 st class A+B, 2 nd , 3 rd Class A *2 nd class use Junior corridor exit door for hometime only	Enter and exit through the Main Reception door
Senior Infants A+B	Enter and exit through the Halla Exit beside Senior Infant Rooms
4 th A+B, 5 th , 6 th	Enter and exit through the Senior Corridor door beside 6 th class

Note: Junior and Senior Infants will be brought to the basketball court by their teachers as usual for collection: Juniors @1.50pm, Seniors @ 2pm.

Your child's learning

As a staff we are very aware that the children have been away from school since March 12th. We appreciate the time and effort that went into home learning, and we recognise the challenges that home learning presented for all families. Each child will be in a different place in relation to his/her learning and as a staff we will take that into consideration when planning for teaching and learning during the 20/21 school year. The DES has provided curriculum guidelines for us and we ask parents to trust our experience and professional expertise as we work with all the children during the return to school. Staff will re-orientate their work with the curriculum, especially during the initial weeks of the first term as they give greater time and attention to areas such as Language, Mathematics, SPHE and PE. All teachers will start from where the children are at.

Blended Learning

If a child is ill and cannot come to school for an extended period of time, the class teacher and/or the support teacher assigned to that class for Literacy and Numeracy will provide work to support the child's learning at home.

**Pupil well being/homework**

Promoting the wellbeing of our school pupils and community is a fundamental element of a successful return to school. We are living through exceptional times and this impacts on the well being of everyone. It will take time for staff and students to adjust being back in our new school environment and be ready and available to fully engage with teaching and learning. A sense of urgency about returning to the curriculum is natural but time spent on settling the students and getting them ready for learning will yield positive outcomes in the longer term and will likely reduce stress. So it is important that teachers do not rush into a focus on formal teaching and learning before first considering readiness and focusing on wellbeing. Written homework will not be given for the first 2 full school weeks, only oral work. Copies will be kept in school and not sent home. This will be reviewed in September.

Communication with the school

No adults should enter the building other than school staff. All meetings must be by appointment and be essential meetings. The contact tracing log will only be filled out for those entering into the building. There will be a marked area in between our main door and inside door at reception for visitors to stand while waiting for Fiona. Sometimes, professional visitors like the school psychologist or I.T maintenance are necessary and they will be asked to fill out the Covid 19 Questionnaire and follow the school protocol for social distancing for visitors.

Email: info@lisnagryns.ie

Phone: 061-331011

Yard Time

Each class or bubble will have their own zone on the yard with a chained railing marking to prevent a crossover into another class area. It has been arranged that all classes will continue to get a minimum of 2 outdoor breaks a day as usual with the new system.

**Corridors**

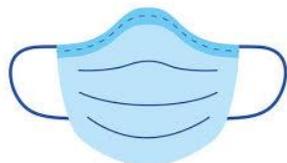
Briefly passing someone in a hall is unlikely to contribute significantly to the spread of infection if people do not have physical contact and avoid informal group discussions. We will observe the practice of keeping to the right when on the corridors. Signage will be provided on the corridors to ensure the safe movement of class bubbles. Children will go straight to their classrooms from the yard and will not congregate in the corridors or hallways.

<p>Junior and Senior Infant Collection on Wet Days</p> <p>On wet days Junior Infants A (Ms Conroy) will be brought to the Halla exit for collection at 1.50pm. Junior Infants B (Ms McKenna) will be brought to the Junior Corridor exit for collection at 1.50pm. Senior Infants A (Ms Perill) will be brought to the Halla exit for collection at 2pm. Senior Infants B (Ms Delaney) will be brought to the Junior Corridor exit for collection at 2pm.</p>	<p>School Uniform</p> <p>We will follow our usual practice in relation to uniforms. They should be taken off straight after the child arrives home from school for the day. They should not be worn in after-school facilities, shops or during after-school activities.</p>
<p>Lunches</p> <p>Parents must ensure children come with lunches etc. to prevent adults coming to school during the day. No sharing of lunches/ drinks among children. If something is forgotten, a parent must drop it to reception.</p> 	<p>Children's Personal Hygiene</p> <p>To promote good personal hygiene and personal responsibility, children will be asked to bring in their own sanitiser and tissues which they can use during the day.</p>
<p>Book boxes</p> <p>Boxes will be provided to all students. These boxes will be used for the children's books and personal supplies. These boxes will facilitate easy cleaning and keep desks clutter free.</p>	<p>School Supplies</p> <p>Parents to supply full sets of school supplies. Children will be asked to keep their pencil cases, colours and stationary at school in their book boxes. This will ensure there is no forgetting school supplies and having to borrow pens/ colours from others. If a teacher has to lend a school item to a child, the teacher will be wipe it with disinfectant wipes before and after.</p>
<p>Early Collection</p> <p>If a pupil is being collected early, please notify the school in advance where possible. Fiona will record it instead of the parent/ guardian signing the child out.</p>	<p>After School Activities</p> <p>We will not be facilitating after school activities for the moment. This will be reviewed in September.</p>
<p>Electrostatic Sprayer</p> <p>The school have also invested in an electrostatic sprayer (fogger) which will be used to supplement the cleaning regime.</p>	<p>Hand Sanitisers</p> <p>Wall hung sanitisers are hung in each classroom and school entry point. Additional automatic hand sanitisers will be placed at each entry point to allow a speedier entrance to the school. Refills for all sanitiser disinfectant has already been purchased.</p>



Visors and Masks

All staff will wear visors/masks where and when appropriate. (ie; when they cannot maintain social distancing). Visors and masks have been purchased for all staff members.



Signage

Signage, as made available by the DES, will be displayed reminding the school community about Covid-19 prevention etiquette. Standard feet markings and other child friendly markings will be used around the school.

Physical distancing

The DES Guidelines recognise that a common sense approach is needed in our primary schools. To that end, every effort will be made to limit interaction within classrooms (bubbles), to limit contact between class groups (pods) and to limit the sharing of common facilities. We will apply physical distancing in a practical and sensible way recognising that the learning environment cannot be dominated by a potentially counterproductive focus on this issue.

Junior Infants-2nd class: Children will be seated in 'pods'. We will try and limit the sharing of classroom resources and materials between pods where possible. Sanitising before and after using shared resources will be required in some situations.

In 3rd-6th, children are placed 1m apart to maintain social distancing.

School Cleaning Schedule

In accordance with the DES Guidelines, the school will be thoroughly cleaned at least once a day. Grant and O'Brien are our new contract cleaners. Our cleaning time has been increased to allow for additional cleaning of the school each day. The cleaning company will be present each day from 3pm. They will clean common touch areas, all toilets, both staff rooms and hall furniture each day. They will also top up sanitisers and empty bins. DES Cleaning Guidance will be issued to cleaners. Cleaning rosters will be signed by cleaning staff each day. Staff also have a box of cleaning equipment for personal use in their classroom throughout the day.

Hand Hygiene

4 touch free dispensers to be installed at the 4 entrances. Wall hung sanitiser dispensers have been installed throughout the school e.g. at each entrance, in each classroom. Each teacher also has a hand sanitiser on their desks.

Pupils and staff should perform hand hygiene:

- on arrival at school
- before eating or drinking
- after using the toilet

Respiratory Hygiene

All members of the school community will practise respiratory hygiene.

This means covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or your bent elbow when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately and safely into a nearby bin.

Please discuss the importance of hand and respiratory hygiene with your child before coming back to school.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • after playing outdoors • when their hands are physically dirty • when they cough or sneeze <p>We would encourage children to bring in their own hand sanitiser which can be left in their book boxes.</p>	
<p>Child Illness</p> <p>YOU SHOULD NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE A TEMPERATURE, A COUGH OF ANY KIND, LOSS OF SMELL/TASTE OR HAVE ANY KIND OF SHORTNESS OF BREATH.</p> <p>If a child displays symptoms at school, parents/guardians will be asked to collect them.</p> <p>Any child who displays Covid-19 symptoms will be brought to our designated isolation area where a member of staff will stay with them until they are collected.</p> <p>Nobody else may enter this area while a child is awaiting collection. It will be sanitised by cleaning staff after the child leaves.</p>	<p>Students who have been on holidays outside of Ireland</p> <p>Please adhere to the HSE Guidelines and self-isolate for 14 days before returning to school.</p>
<p>Teachers will make children aware of the proper hygiene procedures regarding hand washing and etiquette related to sneezing, coughing or spitting. We would be grateful if you could also emphasise safe behaviour in this regard to your children at home as part of the preparation for returning to school. Our aim remains to re-open the school in an orderly safe manner, while reassuring the children and making them feel comfortable, safe, and relaxed with their friends in the new school environment. This will be achieved by all of us working toward this common goal. We are really looking forward to welcoming our children back to school and will be doing all that we can to ensure that the return to school is a safe and enjoyable experience for the children.</p>	

DES Roadmaps

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b264b-roadmap-for-the-full-return-to-school/>

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a0bff-reopening-our-primary-and-special-schools/>