



Dear Parents,

Following on from the recent updated Covid-19 guidance issued by the DES, I am writing to you, on behalf of the Board of Management, to inform you of the gradual changes taking place at school. The virus is still circulating in our school and in our community, so while we are cautiously reverting to some former practices, we are also retaining some mitigation practices to prevent transmission as much as possible.

As you know, children who are close contacts may continue to come to school if they remain symptom free. Children of course should not attend school if they are experiencing symptoms of Covid19 or if they are generally unwell.

We will continue to promote good hygiene. Hand washing and the use of sanitiser on clean hands will continue. As always, we will continue to be mindful of adequate ventilation throughout the school.

Return to School/Work forms no longer need to be completed for children or staff.

As and from Monday, April 25th we will **not** continue with our staggered drop offs in the morning. The school gates will open at 9am to allow for a 9.20am start for all pupils. The children will go in their normal entrance doors and go straight to their classrooms as they have been doing.

Children are supervised every morning in their classrooms from 9am to 9:20 am and for fifteen minutes after school. We have noticed an increase in the number of children dropped off in the morning before this time and it is a health and safety concern. Children who are on school grounds before and after these times are **not supervised**. Please note that the BOM cannot accept responsibility for pupils dropped off before 9am.

The staggered finish to the day will cease also. As and from Monday, April 25th, all junior and senior infants will finish at 2pm and all classes from 1st - 6th will finish the school day at 3pm. A reminder to ensure you inform child-minders, grandparents or whoever collects your children of this change. We would appreciate it greatly if the parents of infants would leave as soon as possible after the 2pm collection. We have found the noise level very disruptive to the learning in classes adjacent to the yard.

Going forward for our final term, Google Classroom will be used primarily as a platform for sharing videos, photographs, class resources and materials. Homework will be posted via the homework tab on Aladdin connect. Please ensure that you have access to it.

Covid-19 has not gone away, and it will continue to pose problems for the school community. Children and staff continue to test positive-some for a second time. This term has been unprecedented as regards the difficulty in obtaining substitute teachers.

We are hopefully on the final leg of the journey and, while we all desire a return to the good old days of pre-Covid, it is important to continue to proceed with caution. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.



On a personal level, I would like to thank my incredibly hard-working colleagues. They suffered a substantial additional workload and had to endure the loss of many small pleasures in their working day over the past two years. I can honestly say that they were exceptional in their efforts to keep our school community safe.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

MICHAEL FEENEY

Principal