

Kilmurry NS Reopening of School

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We hope you and your families are keeping well and have had a lovely summer break. As you are aware, school will reopen on Wednesday 1st September. All the staff are looking forward to seeing our pupils, especially our new Junior Infants!

We would like to sincerely thank you all for your support and co-operation to date and we look forward to working with you again this school year as we renew our work in the context of Covid-19. Re-opening the school safely will require the co-operation of all members of our School Community – BoM, School Leadership, Staff, Parents and Pupils. We will need to play our part in ensuring that re-opening of the school is done in a safe manner which prevents the spread of the virus and allows the vital work of teaching and learning to proceed with as little disruption as possible.

The Department of Education and Skills recently issued us with Guidance on School Reopening which we are currently studying and we will publish our full COVID 19 Response Plan in the coming days. Overall, you can expect that the school will continue to run as it did in the during the 2021/22 school year (drop off and collection times, pods, sanitising etc). CO2 monitors will be provided by the Department which is a new measure.

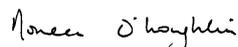
Attached to this letter is a Q&A which we hope will answer any questions you may have. At the end of the document you can find links to videos and resources for pupils and parents to watch before returning to school. If there are any issues, we have not addressed please email us at principal@kilmurry-ns.ie and we will do our very best to address them.

As you are aware, we live in challenging circumstances which are evolving all the time so please be conscious that all our plans may have to be modified at any time based on the public health advice available. We will review our own protocols regularly and will keep you informed of any changes.

Please read the attached document carefully and if there is anything we can clarify or help with please contact us.

In the meantime, keep safe and see you on Wednesday 1st September.

Le meas,



Dr. Noreen O'Loughlin
Cathaoirleach an Bhóird Bainistíochta



Mr. Kevin Clohessy
Príomhoide

Q: What are the procedures for drop-off in the morning?

A: In order to avoid large numbers of pupils entering or exiting the school at the same time we will have staggered drop off and collection times.

- *First Drop-off Time: 8.30-8.40am*
- *Second Drop-off Time: 8.40-8.50am*

Families with surnames beginning with A-H will be the first drop off time slot: 8.30 -8.40am.

Families with surnames beginning with I-Z will be the second drop off time slot: 8.40 -8.50am

Each class will be treated as a bubble. In order to minimise contact between class bubbles, pupils must go straight into their classrooms on arrival on to the school grounds. They will not be able to play on the school yard before school starts as in previous years. No pupils will be able to enter the school before 8.30am.

Q: What are the procedures for after-school collection?

A: In order to minimize contact between class bubbles we will be staggering the time at which classes go home.

- *Junior and Senior Infants: 1.30pm (Junior Infants finish at 12pm until Monday 21st Sept)*
- *1st and 2nd class: 2.25pm*
- *3rd and 4th class: 2.30pm*
- *5th and 6th class: 2.35pm*

Teachers will escort their classes out of the school. Please collect your child at the designated time. In order to maintain social distancing and to minimise cross over between class bubbles, parents are asked to avoid congregating at the school gates.

Q: Which school gates will children use to enter and exit school?

A: To minimise interaction between class bubbles, pupils will enter and exit the school grounds through different gates. The gates will have signs on them indicating which gate each class should use.

- *5th and 6th class will enter and exit through gates into the yard*
- *3rd and 4th class will enter and exit through gate one by the car park*
- *J.I. – 2nd class will enter and exit through gate two by the car park*

Q: Which school doors will children use to enter and exit school?

A: To minimise interaction between class bubbles, pupils will enter and exit the school building through the door assigned to their class in the morning, evening and break times. The doors will have signs on them indicating which door each class should use.

- *5th and 6th class will use the back door onto the yard*
- *3rd and 4th class will use the front door*
- *1st and 2nd class will use the infant door*
- *J.I and S.I. will use infant door*

Q: Can parents enter the school?

A: No, parents can not enter the school without a prior appointment. However, parents of new Junior Infants or pupils who are joining the school for the first time, may accompany their child to their classroom for the first week of the new term.

Q: Can we meet the teacher/s if we need to discuss an issue?

A: As always, we will be happy to meet parents, but we would ask that you make an appointment through the school secretary, Sandra, so we can do so in line with public health guidelines.

Contact: secretary@kilmurry-ns.ie or 061 367623

Q: Do we need to complete a Return to Education Form?

A: Yes, all parents should complete a Return to Education Form for their children before returning to school. The form is attached to this email. You can email it to secretary@kilmurry-ns.ie or your child can bring it in on Wednesday 1st September

Q: What will happen at break times?

A: There will be two separate break times for sos and lunch.

Sos (little break)

- J.I. – 2nd class: 10.45-10.55
- 3rd -6th class: 11.00-11.10

Lunch

- J.I – 2nd class: 12.15 – 12.45 (12.15 to 12.25 eating lunch in classroom)
- 3rd -6th class: 12.40 – 1.10 (12.40 to 12.50 eating lunch in classroom)

Q: How will playtime on the yard work?

A: As each break is staggered, one class bubble will play on the Astroturf and the other will play on the yard e.g.,

- *Monday: J.I. and S.I. on the Astro; 1st and 2nd on the yard*
- *Tuesday: 1st and 2nd on the Astro; J.I. and S.I. on the yard*
- *A similar rota will take place for 3rd – 6th classes.*

Q: How will social distancing work in the classrooms?

A: Government guidelines state that from JI to 2nd class physical distancing of 1 metre ‘is not a prerequisite to reopening a primary school’.

- *In 3rd – 6th classrooms all pupils will be seated 1 m apart from each other.*
- *In J.I. – 2nd classrooms pupils will be seated in pods or groups. Each pod or group will be at least 1m apart. There will be no sharing of resources between pods.*

Q: Should lunch boxes and bottles be labelled?

Yes, all lunch boxes and bottles should be clearly labelled.

Q: Will the teachers be wearing face covering/PPE?

A: The HSE guidance states that *'It is recommended that teachers and staff in primary schools wear a face-covering when a physical distance of 2 meters from other staff or children cannot be maintained'*.

Q: What provisions are being made for regular cleaning of the school?

A: Contract cleaners have been hired by the Board of Management. The school will be cleaned and disinfected at the end of every school day. Frequently touched areas such as door handles, light switches etc. will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the school day.

Q: What provisions are being made for hand sanitizing?

A: There are two hand sanitizer dispensers at each entrance to the school and there are two hand sanitizer dispensers in each classroom.

Q: Will handwashing routines be put in place in the classes?

A: Handwashing will be extremely important. Teachers will establish frequent handwashing routines with their pupils. Extra soap and paper towel dispensers have been added to each classroom.

Q: How will the use of books and school materials work?

Pupils will not be able to share resources e.g. pencils, colours etc.

We would ask that all your child's possessions are clearly marked with their name. We will supply each child with a box in which they can store their own materials.

Q: What is the advice regarding children who are ill?

A: The clear public health advice is that a child who is ill must be kept at home. Should your child display any symptoms of COVID-19 while at school we will bring the child to the isolation room and immediately contact parents. We will be very conscious that this will need to be done in a child-friendly and caring manner.

If your child has any underlying health conditions please makes us aware by emailing Kevin at principal@kilmurry-ns.ie

Q: Does the school have an Isolation Room?

A: Yes, we have prepared and made the room 'Naomh Fínneachta' available.

Q: When will books through the Book Rental scheme be available?

A: The PA has put a huge amount of work into this scheme and will have the books ready for each child on their return to school. They will be set out in each classroom for each child on the morning.

Relevant Information Websites:

The following websites provide further information on COVID-19 and on government advice and recommendations regarding the re-opening of schools:

- Video for parents of children in Junior Infants - https://youtu.be/UomH_vakjDI

- Video for parents of children Senior Infants – RII <https://youtu.be/4smnni5jpGI>
- Video for parents of children RIII – RVI - <https://youtu.be/sbJUCIBmfiQ>
- A Parent’s Guide to Close Contacts – <https://youtu.be/cKMPDRuhRQw>
- <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ao4fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families>
- <https://www.education.ie/en/covid-19/>
- <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>