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*Each individual through positive learning experiences will be given opportunities to reach his/her full potential,
face life confidently, find fulfillment and be respectful in an ever-changing world.*

27th August 2020

Dear Parents,

We are ready to welcome your children back to school on Tuesday 1st September. In line with Department guidelines "All children not at risk are expected to return to school in the coming academic year as long as they themselves are not sick or at very high risk. This includes children whose parents or other relatives may be at risk or may be anxious about the Covid 19 pandemic." Parents of children will have to seek medical certification to indicate that their child is at high risk. **Please make sure we have the correct mobile number and email address for you so that we can contact you quickly if we need to.**

The following are a list of helpful hints to make life easier for everyone:

PROCEDURE FOR TUESDAY 1st SEPTEMBER

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR **SIGNED** DECLARATION FORM WITH YOU THAT WAS SENT IN THE POST THIS WEEK.

- Everything must be labelled
- Children bring to school what they are able to carry. If children are unable to carry all books and copies together on the first day of school the following is suggested: **Tuesday:** bring all English books, copies and pencil cases. **Wednesday:** Maths books and Irish books. **Thursday:** everything else.
- Children can wear the ordinary school uniform or school tracksuit - whatever is easiest for you.
- Keep all food items in the lunch box, both small break and big break - no loose food items. If you can fit the bottle in the lunch box - all the better. The lunch box and bottle should be brought to school in a school bag each day.
- If possible your children should walk to school.
- If you wish your child to wear a mask in school, they are free to do so.
- Starting times/ finishing times have been sent to you via text. It is very important that you adhere to these times. Give yourself plenty of time in the morning so that you are at school on time.
- **Junior Convent Site:** If there are no parking spaces available near the school please use the council parking accessible through the church grounds. This is also recommended for parents whose children are using gates on the Convent Road side near the secondary school.
 - Children and parents of younger children are asked to use the markings outside the gate and fences of the school to line up and wait for their teacher to greet them. We would ask parents to wear a face covering while waiting.
 - Parents are not allowed inside the school gate/fence except for Junior Infant parents who will be allowed to come to an assigned outer school door, with their child, for one week.

Senior Abbey Site: Parents are not allowed to drive their cars inside the gate. The area outside the gate is for 'drop-off' only.

Chairperson: Fr. Kevin Fallon

Principal: Dr. Úna Feeley

- If your child is entering through the side gate near the Abbey Hotel parents drop them off at the 'drop-off' area before the pedestrian crossing and the children walk around the side of the school to the side gate beside the Abbey monastery entrance.
- As on the Junior site children are asked to use the markings outside the gate and fences of the school to line up and wait for their teacher to greet them.
- Children are not allowed into the school yard until they are met by their teacher.
- Some children in the same family will have to drop off their children at different times **on this day only**. From Wednesday siblings can come into school together and they will be reminded by their teacher where to enter from Wednesday.
- The children will line up as directed by their teacher and walk to their classroom.
- Each classroom is a classroom bubble and each class has their own entrance door, toilet, wash hand basin and yard area.
- As the children enter the classroom they will sanitize their hands using school sanitizers.
- Following guidelines the children will clean their hands a minimum of 5 times a day.
- Soap and paper towels and/or hand dryers are being used as per department guidelines.
- Each class has a plastic box with a lid provided by the school into which goes their lunchbox, pencil case, sanitizer and books/copies. Each child will be only allowed to touch their own items and will be taught this. Following department guidelines children will only use hand sanitizer under adult supervision.
- Break and lunch times will be staggered so that only one class at each level is allowed out to their designated play area at any time.
- Children will eat their break/lunch in their classrooms as usual.
- As per department guidelines the month of September will be focused on children's well being, making sure they are happy and content in school. This time will be used to establish where each child is at in their learning in school and giving them the supports they need. For this reason we have decided not to give children any homework for the month of September.
- The children will bring their school bag home with their lunch box and bottle inside. They won't bring home any books.
- Finishing times are staggered to ensure all children can leave the school safely.
- Parents cannot come inside the gate/fence and are asked to line up using the markers on the gate and fence if collecting children.
- The teacher will walk the children to the gate.
- Children from 2nd class up will be allowed to leave the school grounds. Children Junior Infants to 1st classes must be collected by an adult. Please be on time.

Parents are advised to do the following:

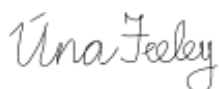
- Continue to teach your children to wash their hands properly and use sanitizer correctly.
- Watch "Return to School" video at <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/a128d-back-to-school/>
- Talk to your child about the above procedures in a positive way assuring them that they are going to be safe and happy in school.
- We understand that these procedures may be difficult for some parents and children but this is what we have to do to minimise the spread of the virus.
- Once school starts parents and teachers will be encouraged to contact each other via email when and if necessary. You can also arrange to meet a teacher or principal by appointment through the school office 0906626872.

I want to sincerely thank all the staff for all the work they have done getting the school ready for the children.

Enjoy the last weekend before school starts.

We are all looking forward to seeing you next Tuesday.

Yours sincerely,



Una Feeley: Principal