



September 2020

Dear Parents,

We welcome you to a new school year and look forward to a successful, safe and happy one for all involved in the school community. This year we have many new arrangements in place to ensure the health and safety of all the children and the entire school community. We ask for your cooperation and support in these times.

We wish to draw your attention to the following:

School Calendar:

Term 1	Tuesday 1st September – Tuesday 22nd December Mid-Term: Monday October 26 th - Friday October 30 th
Term 2	Wednesday January 6 th - Friday 26 th March Mid-Term: Thursday & Friday February 18 th & 19 th Wednesday March 17 th - school closed
Term 3	Monday April 12 th - Friday June 25 th Monday May 3 rd – school closed Monday & Tuesday June 7 th & 8 th – school closed

Attendance and Punctuality

- School Timetable:
 - 9:15 a.m. Classes begin
 - 1:55 p.m. Dismissal Junior and Senior Infants
 - 2:55 p.m. Dismissal of all other classes
- To facilitate an orderly start to the school day children may be dropped off between 9:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. and go straight to their classrooms where their teachers will be awaiting them.
- Please be aware children may not enter the school grounds before **before 9:00 a.m.**

- **If your child has symptoms of COVID 19 – fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell – They must be kept at home until you have spoken with your GP**
- The Education Welfare Act 2000 deals with school attendance. A written explanation is necessary when a child is absent (**this can be done on Aladdin**). If a child is not attending regularly, I am obliged under this Act to inform the Education Welfare Board. The Education Welfare Officer will then contact you.
- Children are required to be on time for class each day (any child who arrives at school after 10 a.m. is marked absent but recorded on a late register)
- If a child shows signs of illness (other than COVID 19) before leaving for school in the morning, it is advisable to keep him/her at home.
- If children have to leave school early, you must contact the school by email or phone prior to arriving at the school. They must be signed out in reception by a parent or designated adult.

School Uniform

Uniform must be worn everyday. P.E. uniform is to be worn on the day designated for P.E. For safety reasons children must wear suitable runners for P.E.

Behaviour

If the Class Teacher, Deputy Principal or Principal need to contact you about your child's behaviour, your continued co-operation is asked in helping to deal with it so that the problem does not escalate. Bullying in any form is not tolerated. Any report of bullying will be investigated. If you have mislaid your copy of the Code of Behaviour Policy, it can be viewed on the website.

Health, Safety and Hygiene:

- Please be aware children may not enter the school grounds before **before 9:00 a.m. or stay after 3p.m.**
- Children may enter and exit the school grounds only through the gate where the School Traffic Warden works. Parents are requested not to open the side gate.
- Please do not park in the Staff Car Park.
- The School has a Healthy Eating Policy. There is a summary of this policy in the School Diary.
- A good standard of hygiene is necessary where a large group of children interact. Head lice are virtually unavoidable. Please check your child's hair regularly and adhere to the guidelines issued by the Community Care Doctors and Nurses.
- Hanging jewellery e.g. earrings/necklaces/bracelets may not be worn.
- Make-up of any kind must not be worn.

Child Protection and Welfare

The Board of Management has adopted the Guidelines and Procedures in relation to Child Protection and Welfare issued by the Department of Education and Science. If there is a matter of concern in relation to abuse of children, we are obliged to report this to the local Health Service Executive. They will assess the case and provide the necessary support for the child. The four areas of abuse are: **Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Neglect.**

As part of the S.P.H.E. Curriculum, children will be taught the Stay Safe and R.S.E. Programmes.

Parent Teacher Meetings

There is an opportunity to discuss your children's progress with their teachers during the year. You will be notified of these meetings. If you regard it necessary to speak with the teachers at other times you are welcome, **but please do so by appointment only.**

Unannounced visits cannot be accommodated due to Health and Safety. For the moment communication between home and school will generally take place via phone / email.

Classes for Parents

Mrs. Linda O'Gorman is our Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinator. Mrs. O' Gorman promotes partnership between home and school by regularly visiting homes and by organising courses for Parents. We encourage Parents to complete Garda Vetting in order to partake in classroom based activities.

Mobile Phones

Pupils are **not allowed** have mobile phones in their possession on school grounds. Please be advised that this rule will be strictly enforced. Parents may contact their children through the school phone and when necessary pupils may contact their parents through the school phone. Parents are requested not to contact staff on their personal mobile phones, if you wish to communicate with a member of staff please do so by ringing the school 065 9051792 or by emailing your child's teacher.

School Records

To keep school records up to date, it is essential that you let us know if your child has a change of address or contact telephone number. Please note these changes can be made by the parent on Aladdin. If your child suffers from any medical condition i.e. asthma etc, please inform your child's teacher.

Homework

For the month of September and until further notice there will be no homework

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework.

Junior & Senior Infants:	15 – 20 minutes
1 st & 2 nd Class:	20 – 30 minutes
3 rd & 4 th Class:	30 – 45 minutes
5 th & 6 th Class:	45 – 60 minutes

If children are unable to complete homework in this time it is advisable to arrange to meet the class teacher to discuss it.

School Lunches

Lunch is available to every child in the school and is in line with our Healthy Eating Policy. We encourage all children to avail of these lunches.

Yours sincerely,

A. Bolton

Principal