



Redeemer Boys' National School
Ard Easmuinn
Dundalk, Co. Louth

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Re: Welcome back to the 2023/24 school year

24th August 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you all have had a wonderful summer.

I welcome all our Redeemer families back to school! I also want to extend a special welcome to all the new pupils who are coming to our school for the first time this year, whether they are starting off in Junior Infants or joining other classes across the school. I look forward to meeting all of you and to seeing all the familiar faces of our returning families.

Below is some important operational information with regard to the school reopening on **Wednesday 30th August**:

Drop-Off/Pick-Up Times

Please note that we will continue to implement a **natural approach to staggering arrivals by operating a fluid start time from 8.50am to 9.00am**. Pupils will not be allowed access to the grounds before 8.50am and the gates will only be open at this time. We ask that parents say goodbye to pupils in the car park or at the front pedestrian gate/back gate (Dunnes) and not enter school grounds at drop-off time. There will be staff at the gates and at various points around the school to guide the boys to their classroom safely.

We ask that you **take extra care when using the car park**. Please drive slowly and do not block any of the entry gates (pedestrian or main gates). Please ensure that your child gets to the pedestrian gate/car safely at drop-off and pick-up times as there will be a lot of moving vehicles in the car park in the mornings and afternoons.

Arrangements for Hometime are as follows:

Junior Infants – 1.40pm Handover to adult at front doors (From 06/09/23)

Senior Infants – 1.40pm Handover to adult at side door

First Class - 2.40pm Handover to adult at side door
Second Class - 2.40pm Handover to adult at front doors

Third to Sixth Class = 2.40pm Escorted to back/front gates by class teacher/SNA

Junior Infants Induction Period

As communicated previously we cannot allow parents to accompany their son to the classroom on their first day of school. However, we have decided that for the **first day Junior Infants should come to school at the later time of 9.20am**. This will mean that all other classes are already in the building, and it will allow parents the opportunity to park in the car park and bring their sons to the front of the school at 9.20am where they will be met by our staff.

When they are ready the children will be brought indoors. Any child who is not ready to enter may stay with their parent/s until they are ready. If it is raining at any point (or even if it's not) you are welcome to use the Parents' Room, which is at the top of the school.

Please Note: The class teacher will bring **Junior Infants** to the **front doors** at 12.00 noon from Wednesday 30th August to Tuesday 5th September and at 1.40pm from Wednesday 6th September onwards.

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| • Wednesday 30th August | 9.20am - 12 noon |
| • Thursday 31st August - Tuesday 5th September | 9.00am - 12 noon |
| • Wednesday 6th September onwards | 9.00am - 1.40pm |

School Transport (ASD Classes)

School transport services will resume on Wednesday 30th August.

Stationery/Coats

Pupils will continue to be provided with the stationery required for each class level. This stationery (pencils, rubbers, colouring pencils/markers/rulers etc.) will remain in school. We kindly ask pupils not to bring in toys/footballs or any other unnecessary items into school.

In relation to bringing a coat to school. Pupils in the Junior Classes (Junior Infants-Second) and ASD Classes will be assigned an individual hook in their class cloakroom. Pupils in the Senior Classes (Third-Sixth) will either be assigned a hook or permitted to hang their coat on the back of their chair. To this end, the individual class teacher will have a system in place, taking into account the context of the classroom.

School Lunches



As you know, we are part of the Free School Meal initiative and your son will receive a **healthy snack and hot meal daily**.

Login details for new pupils on the Fresh Today App will be sent home on the first day of school and ALL parents should make sure to amend the menu choices for their son/s before 5pm on Thursday 31st August to ensure they are set up for the following week. Choices can be changed via the Fresh Today App at any stage, or you can request a change through our secretary Audrey.

Book Rental

All schools will now benefit from the **Free Primary Schoolbooks Scheme** so there is no cost for families in this regard. We will, however, require a **small contribution for each pupil** that will be used for **Art/Craft Supplies and Photocopying**, the cost of this is €20. Payments should be made via the Elavon Link that will be sent via Aladdin Connect on the first day of school or to the school secretary at your earliest convenience when we reopen. Mr Niall McArdle (HSCL teacher 085 785 0787) will assist you if you wish to pay this amount off in smaller instalments.

We are looking forward to welcoming all our boys back for another great year at Redeemer Boys' N.S.

Thank you for your continued support,

M.Murray