



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

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Re: Welcome back to the 2021/22 school year

24th August 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and that you were able to relax and enjoy the wonderful weather.

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.

Unfortunately, we are still living with Covid-19 and the arrangements that were put in place last year will continue into this school year. You will be aware that the DELTA variant is very easily transmitted and therefore we must continue to be extremely cautious.

You may have heard in the media that schools are being provided with **CO2 monitors**. We hope to receive these from the Department of Education and Skills by mid-September. These monitors will alert staff when a room required more ventilation.

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 9.10am**. 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 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. Parents are asked to avoid congregating at drop off/pick up times and to maintain a 2m physical distance from each other and school staff at all times.

Please note that parents must wear a face covering (mask, visor or shield) when on school grounds. This includes pick up times and when parents have an appointment with the school office or are handing something into the secretary.

Arrangements for Hometime are as follows:

Junior Infants – 1.40pm Handover to adult at front doors (From 06/09/21)

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 (in class order, i.e. 3rd/4th. 4th/5th, then 5th/6th)

The staggered finishing times will reduce congestion and people gathering. Parents are asked to collect children promptly and if parents wish to have conversations with each other, we kindly ask that these are conducted after pick up time outside the car park so that spaces can be kept free and traffic keeps moving.

School Transport (ASD Classes)

School transport services will resume on Tuesday 31st August. Parents of boys in our ASD classes will find a letter attached from the Department with further details on the additional measures and hygiene requirements now in place.

Keep Left in Corridors

Pupils in all classes will be taught to walk on the left hand side of the corridor when moving around the school building. There are arrow signs to help the boys get used to the new system.



Stationary/School bags/Coats

Pupils will not be allowed to share stationary to limit cross contamination, therefore we will be giving out labelled ziplock bags to each pupil on their first day. These bags will contain pencils, rubbers, sharpeners, chubby crayons, colouring pencils, markers, scissors, glue sticks and a ruler as appropriate to the class level. This stationary bag will stay in school. *We will also include a packet of tissues in the individual bags.*

Pupils may take a school bag into school. If practicing good hand hygiene, books can go from school to home safely as there is a relatively low risk of contamination. Most teachers will not be assigning home activities until Monday 13th September, however they may send home reading material, notes, art work etc so a school-bag is required.

Pupils can bring a coat to school, pupils will be assigned a hook for their coat. Coat hooks have been altered and spaced apart where necessary. The coats belonging to the boys in our senior classes may be hung on hooks that are grouped together in

accordance with their Pod groupings.

School Uniforms

As a school we strongly advise that children should wear their school uniforms **only for school related activities**. Uniforms should be taken off straight after the child arrives home from school for the day. They should not be worn in after-school facilities, shops or during after-school activities etc.

School Lunches

School lunches will continue to be provided by Glanmore Foods. There will be a selection of snacks and lunches available at both small and big break for all new pupils up to Friday 3rd September until we get the boys' choices updated with our provider.

Suspected Illness

The winter season is ahead of us. Every year, school children get colds, flu and other infections. This year, coronavirus is still with us. Please be especially vigilant and keep your child at home from school if they have:

- ✓ a temperature of 38°C or more
- ✓ a new cough, loss or changed sense of smell or taste or shortness of breath
- ✓ fatigue, aches or pains
- ✓ been in close contact with someone who may have coronavirus
- ✓ been living with someone who is unwell or may have coronavirus

I ask that you complete and submit a **Return to School Declaration** for each child enrolled in our school before Tuesday 31st August. A link to this form will be sent via text before the weekend. You can follow the link to the document and complete/submit it online.

If pupils are returning from abroad parents should refer to the current Public Health Advice on the following webpage: <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/75d92-covid-19-travel-advice/>

We are looking forward to welcoming back all our boys as best we can in what continues to be challenging and unique circumstances. We are following current guidance and continuing with established procedures so that we can make school as safe as possible. It is only with strong parental support and cooperation that we can make these arrangements work and ensure we can keep all our pupils at school.

Thank you for your continued support,

M.Murray