



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

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Re: Junior Infants 2021

24th August 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am delighted to welcome your son _____ to our school.

Last year we had to make some changes to the school day due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. These practices will continue for the incoming school day. Your son's teacher, Miss Harlin, will help your son get used to these routines.

Unfortunately, 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 week Junior Infants can come to school at the later time of 9.30am**. This will mean that all other classes are already in the building and it will allow you the opportunity to park in the car park and bring your sons to the side of the school at 9.30am for the first week 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 we will use our half of the school hall (entry through front doors). When the children are in the classroom, parents must leave the school grounds (yard or hall), be available by phone and return at 12 noon/1.40pm for **handover at the front doors**.



Please Note: The class teacher will bring **Junior Infants** to the front doors at 12.00 noon from Tuesday 31st August to Friday 3rd September and at 1.40pm from Monday 6th September onwards.

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| • Tuesday 31 st August - Friday 3 rd September | 9.30am - 12 noon |
| • Monday 6 th September onwards | 9.00am - 1.40pm |

From Monday 6th September onwards, we ask that Junior Infant parents follow the procedures in place for all other classes from 8.50am as outlined below.

Drop-Off for Mainstream Classes

Please note that we are implementing a **natural approach to staggering arrivals by operating a more 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.

Parents should 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.

8.50am - 9.10am - PUPILS CAN ARRIVE DURING THIS TIME.

We will have an area marked out around the front gates that may only be entered by pupils after 8.50am. There will be personnel from both Redeemer Schools present in the car park and at the back gates in the mornings to ensure this system runs smoothly.



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 with this 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, a ruler and tissues as appropriate to the class level. This stationary bag will stay in school.

Pupils may bring a school bag to school. Please note that there may not be any materials going home for the first few weeks, however, it is useful for Junior Infants to get used to bringing a bag to school. The class teacher may send home notes, art work or other completed work at various times throughout the year.

Pupils can bring a coat to school, pupils will be assigned a hook for their coat in the cloakroom area. Coat hooks have been altered and spaced apart where necessary.

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 available at small break for all our Junior Infant 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 or aches and pains
- ✓ been in close contact with someone who may have coronavirus
- ✓ been living with someone who is unwell or may have coronavirus

We are looking forward to welcoming back all our boys as best we can in what continues to be very challenging and unique circumstances. We will continue with the robust practices that we introduced last year so that we can make school as safe as possible within the current guidance. It is only with strong parental support and cooperation that we can do this and ensure we can keep all our pupils at school.

Thank you in advance for your support,

M.Murray