



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

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Re: Reopening our school

26th August 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to remind parents of the arrangements for our reopening, **to flag up a few changes** and also to provide some additional information with regard to the full reopening.

Reconfiguration of Third/Fourth Class

I previously told you that we had an additional teaching post up to Halloween at least. The intention was to have four straight classes in the Junior Section of the school with Second Class being the smallest class of the four with 13 pupils.

In order to maximise physical distancing it has now been decided to **reconfigure Second Class as Second/Third Class and have a straight Fourth Class.**

I am delighted to announce that Ms Aiofe Quigley has been appointed to the Fixed Term Developing Post and will teach Second/Third Class. Mrs Thompson will be the Fourth Class teacher.

Reopening Schedule

Following a Board of Management meeting last Friday we are now **delaying the return of our 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th class boys until Friday 28th August.** We have installed additional storage in these classrooms and now have to reconfigure the room to allow for smaller 'Pods' within the 'Class Bubbles.' It is felt that to ensure the safety of our senior pupils and to mitigate certain risks a phased timetable for return is best.

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.

Day	Class/es to attend	Times
Thursday 27 th August	Senior Infants	9.00AM- 1.40PM
	First Class	9.00AM- 2.30PM
Friday 28 th August	Junior Infants Induction Day	Allocated Timeslot
	First Class & Second/Third Class	9.00AM- 2.30PM
	Fourth Class	9.00AM- 2.40PM
	Fifth/Sixth Class	9.00AM- 2.45PM
Monday 31 st August	Orchard Class 1 & 2	9.00AM- 1.30PM/2.20PM
	Junior Infants	9.30AM- 12 NOON
	Senior Infants, First Class, Second/Third Class, Fourth Class, Fifth/Sixth Class	All Times As Shown Above (Thursday and Friday)

From Monday 31st August onwards all classes will attend school daily.

Drop-Off/Pick Up Times

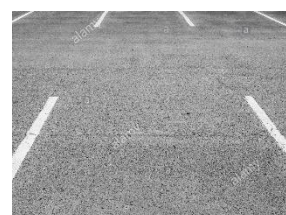
My previous letter stated that parents could hand over pupils at the side of the building beside the rainbow mural, we are now asking that parents say goodbye to pupils in the car park or at the front gate/back gate (Dunnes) and not enter school grounds at drop off time. There will be staff at the gates 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 in to the secretary.

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

I can now confirm that we not be making any immediate changes to the car park facilities and staff and parents may park in any available spaces. 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.



The arrangements at home time are as outlined in the previous letter.



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.

JUNIOR INFANTS

Please Note: The class teacher will bring **Junior Infants** to the front doors at 12.00 noon from Monday 31st August to Friday 4th September and at 1.40pm from Monday 7th September onwards.

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 two weeks 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 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 two week where they will be met by our teachers. When they are ready the children will be brought indoors. Any child who is not ready to enter may stay with their parent 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 for handover at the front doors.

From Monday 14th September onwards, we ask that Junior Infant parents follow the procedures in place for all other classes from 8.50am as outlined above.

N.B. Junior Infants should wear their school uniform for their Induction Day.

- **Monday 31st August – Friday 4th September 9.30am – 12 noon**
- **Monday 7th August – Friday 11th September 9.30am – 1.40pm**
- **Monday 14th September onwards 9.00am – 1.40pm**

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 will be 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 have now decided to include a packet of tissues in the individual bags.*

Pupils will not require a school bag as they return to school. **For the month of September no school books, reading books etc will be sent home.**

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 4th 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 time, coronavirus is 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
- ✓ 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 these challenging and unique circumstances. We have introduced many changes 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 make these changes work and ensure we can keep all our pupils at school.

Thank you for your continued support,

M.Murray