

*Scoil Náisiúnta
Shóisearach Phóil Naofa*

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*Saint Paul's
Junior National School*

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Arrangements for the reopening of St. Pauls JNS

18th August 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we look forward to reopening our school on Monday, 31st August we hope everybody is keeping safe and well and that all in the St. Paul's Junior National School community have been enjoying the summer holidays.

The Department of Education and Skills has published a number of documents outlining required actions to facilitate and provide guidance for the safe reopening of schools, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. All of the relevant provisions in these documents are being implemented in St. Paul's J.N.S. These provisions were developed in line with public health advice and with the engagement of relevant stakeholders. The Board of Management of St. Paul's J.N.S. has ratified a Covid-19 Policy Statement. This document is part of our St. Paul's J.N.S. School Response Plan. The document is available on our school website www.stpaulsjns.ie

Below we have outlined the key changes to practice which are required in order to reopen our school safely. These arrangements will remain in place until reviewed by St. Paul's J.N.S. Board of Management or until further guidance from D.E.S./H.S.E.

School timetable (until further notice)

We have altered the pupils' start and finish times, until further notice, to ensure a smooth return to school, while maintaining social distancing and reducing contact among children and adults. This timetable will be reviewed regularly and any changes will be communicated promptly.

Children must not arrive to the school before their allocated time.

<u>Week 1: Monday 31st August – Friday 4th September</u>		
	Start time	Home time

Play school	8.30	As agreed with playschool
Junior Infants	8.45	11.30 (31 st Aug -11 th Sept)
Senior Infants	9.00	11:30
First Class	12.00	2.30
Second Class	12.00	2.30

Week beginning 7th September onwards

	Start time	Home time
Play school	8.30	As agreed with playschool
Junior Infants	8.45	1.30 (beginning 14 th Sept)
Senior Infants	9.00	1.45
First Class	8.45	2.30
Second Class	8.45	2.30

Small Break/Sos

	Start time	Supervision provided by 2 teachers
Junior Infants	10.15	SNA to be present in each class
Senior Infants	10.30	SNA to be present in each class
First Class	10.15	
Second Class	10.30	

- Teachers will take break at the same time as the children.
- Each class/pod will have a designated yard space.
- Teachers will split into two groups for use of the Staff Room.

Yard time		
	Start time	End time
Junior Infants	12.00	12.25
Senior Infants	12.00	12.25
First Class	12.30	12.55
Second Class	12.30	12.55

In order to avoid congregation at drop-off / collection times, we ask that parents/guardians follow the one way system and practice social distancing as much as possible when delivering/collecting their children in the yards.

Access Points

All pupils will line up in their allocated class lines when arriving to school and parents/guardians are asked to socially distance around the edges of each yard and not at the class lines.

- Only junior infant classes may arrive through the junior infant gate.
- Only senior infants and second classes may arrive through the senior school shared gate.
- Only First class may arrive through the fire engine access gate on the top yard. (Clonrosse Drive)

Due to the Covid-19 protocols which have to be strictly observed and managed in the school, it is extremely important that all children be at school on time and that they be collected after school on time. We respectfully ask for your cooperation in this regard.

If on a very rare occasion you do find yourself arriving late, only your child will be permitted entry at the main door. We ask for your full cooperation with this procedure to ensure the health and safety of all.

Cleaning

The school has been professionally cleaned and disinfected prior to reopening. In consultation with our cleaning contractors, enhanced daily cleaning procedures will be in place within the school.

Hand sanitiser

Hand sanitiser stations have been installed in each class and throughout the school. Immediately upon entering the school, pupils will be directed to use the hand sanitiser provided. If your child has a skin allergy / intolerance, please let us know in writing and arrangements will be made for such children to apply their own sanitiser upon entry to school each day.

- Parents /Guardians/ visitors must not enter the school building under any circumstances without prior appointment. Parents / visitors entering the building by prior arrangement will be required to sign a visitors' School Contact Tracing Log.
- Pupils in all classes will sit in pods of approximately 6 pupils. These pods may be reviewed at a later date and will only be subject to change in very exceptional circumstances. The children's seating in each class will be prearranged by the class teachers and chairs and tables will be labelled prior to our resumption.
- Pupil break times will now be staggered, with all pupils having a yard break daily. Pupils will only play with their own class groups in pre-marked zones during these play times. As usual, children should bring a snack for morning break and a healthy lunch.
- Use of the school computer room and class libraries will be minimised.
- Pupils may bring a small personal hygiene pack to school daily, containing hand sanitizer, a face cloth sized towel (towel to be changed daily) for hand drying and tissues. This is not a requirement. Each classroom is equipped with a hand sanitizer dispenser and paper towels.
- Pupils should bring only essential items and no non-school personal belongings/toys into school. As they are not allowed to share resources, we ask that all children have their own supplies of pens, pencils, colouring pencils, crayons etc. Classrooms will be decluttered to facilitate daily enhanced cleaning. Consequently, pupil access to some classroom resources may be limited.
- Pupils will continue to wear their school uniform / school tracksuit in school. While it is recommended that uniforms be washed daily, we appreciate that this may be onerous on parents. Children may, when necessary, attend school out of school uniform.
- To avoid crossover of class groups and pods, all after school activities are postponed pending review of procedures by the Board of Management.

- If your child has been abroad within 14 days of the school reopening, you must inform the school and be prepared for your child to quarantine for up to 14 days if necessary, in line with Government requirements.
- Children, who are sick/not feeling well, should not attend school under any circumstances. If possible, please check your child's temperature daily before sending them into school. Any child considered by staff to be sick/unfit to be in school under current protocols, will be promptly brought to the isolation room in Room 14 and parents/guardians will be contacted to collect their child immediately. If necessary, in such circumstances the Health Service Executive may provide further guidance to the school and / or relevant parents/guardians.
- All contact details provided for pupils must be updated if necessary (where contact numbers may have changed during the school closure or if they change in the future). All children must have at least one contact available at all times.
- While it is not a requirement, pupils may wear a visor / face covering in school if parents/guardians or the child wishes. It is not the responsibility of school staff to supervise or enforce wearing of masks.

Workbooks - Please label and cover your child's workbooks with a waterproof/wipe able covering.

Stationery - We suggest that children would have a pencil case which could be left in school and another at home. We advise parents to ensure that children have all stationery requirements in advance and throughout the year.

We appreciate that some of the arrangements outlined may prove difficult and inconvenient. However, these procedures are required to ensure the safety of all children, families and staff in St. Paul's J.N.S school community. All of these arrangements are under constant review and subject to change if required. Further guidance may issue in advance of school reopening.

On a personal note I am aware that this is a lot of information to take in. Great consideration has been given to ensure the safety of our pupils, staff and school community. We rely on your support and patience as we do our best to keep your children safe with all of these new practices. This is a first for us all, a pandemic is not something we have ever planned for, but we have now! Hopefully we have covered all options and will get the majority of things accurate to ensure a smooth return to school. And, if we don't, then we will work together to adjust them in order to meet the needs within our school. We welcome and appreciate any feedback and observations you may have.

We are so excited to see all the boys and girls 'in person' and to welcome everyone back to school.

See you all soon and best wishes for the new school year!

Kind regards,

Elaine Mc Nulty.

(Principal)