



Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope that you are keeping well. This email is a follow-up from last week's newsletter regarding our reopening plans. It provides more detail for parents as we prepare to return to school. We are continuing to work hard to prepare for our reopening on the 31/08/2020. We will be installing new sinks and cabinets in our main toilets this week. Warm water will be available at all handwashing facilities so that pupils and staff can wash their hands properly.

We have taken delivery of signage to display around the school. These signs will be displayed to remind everyone in our school community how to wash and sanitise their hands appropriately. They will also remind everyone of how to behave in order to keep everyone safe and to minimise the spread of COVID-19.

We are looking forward to welcoming all our pupils back to school. Enjoy the last few days of the summer holidays. We will send further information if necessary before we return.

Kind regards,

Síle De Cléir
Chairperson of Board of Management

Ger Kelleher
Principal

St. Patrick's N.S Logistics Plan

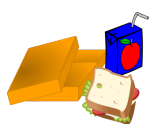
Underlying Principles	2
Lunches	2
Lunch/Break Times	2
Uniforms	3
Pencil Cases	3
Curriculum	3
Wellbeing of the School Community	4
Special Education Support	4
Distance Learning	4
Homework	4
Travel from Abroad	4
Drop and Go	5
Collection	5

Visitors	5
Collection of children during the school day	6
Entry/Exits	6
Suspected Case of Covid-19	7
Children who should not attend school	7
After School Activities	7
Toilets	7
Additional Measures to limit interactions	8
Masks	8
New website	8

Underlying Principles

- St. Patrick's N.S has a responsibility to make every effort to ensure the safety, health and well-being of all members of our school community – children, parents and staff. This plan has been formulated to better ensure that the school can exercise that duty of care.
- It is not possible to eliminate the risk of infection. However, with the cooperation of all members of our school community, it is possible to minimise the risk of the virus being introduced to school and the consequent risk of its spread.
- As well as co-operation, the flexibility and goodwill of all will be required to ensure the plan can be implemented.

Lunches



This year more than ever we are asking that only lunch boxes and drinks bottles that can be easily opened and closed are used. Lunch boxes will remain in pupils bags until break and lunch times. There will be no sharing of lunch items and we ask that you remind your child of this in advance of returning to school. We will be encouraging pupils to place any packaging in their lunch boxes when they are finished and to dispose of this packaging at home. We will not be providing 'food waste bins' this year. This removes a highly touched surface from the classroom. Children will be asked to take home any food waste in their lunch boxes. **It is imperative that lunch boxes and drinks bottles are washed thoroughly each evening.**

Lunch/Break Times

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, there will be two breaks and lunches this year to facilitate social distancing and class bubbles in the yard.

- Group A (Juniors/Seniors/5th/6th) will have their break between 10.45am-10.55am and their lunch between 12.15pm-12.45pm.

- Group B (1st/2nd/3rd/4th) will have their break between 11.00am-11.10am and their lunch between 12.50pm-1.20pm.

Pupils will enter and exit the yard through the same doors that they enter in the morning when arriving at school.

Uniforms



Presently, the guidance for schools is that uniforms can and should be worn to school. A clean school uniform should be worn daily. Any plain navy jumper/cardigan can be worn when the crested one is not available. As a school, we strongly advise that children should wear their school uniforms or tracksuits only for school related activities. Uniforms or tracksuits 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, during after-school activities, etc.

Class teachers will be in contact regarding PE days once we return to school. All PE classes will take place outside this year. We ask that pupils wear suitable tracksuits for this. In an effort to maintain ventilation in classrooms, windows will be open when possible and will be opened during break times.

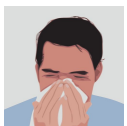
Pencil Cases

On our first day of opening, we ask that pupils from Juniors to 6th class bring a pencil case with all the stationery they need. **This pencil case will remain in school and will not be taken home.** This is to minimise the movement of items between school and home. Please label all items of stationery carefully. The pencil case will be stored at desks. Non-absorbent materials would be preferable for pencil cases. Pupils should have the necessary pencils and colours at home to complete any homework activities.

Soft Toys & Other Items from Home

Unfortunately bringing in some soft items from home will pose certain risks, therefore, until the advice changes, we would ask that pupils in the younger classes leave these items at home.

Handwashing, Sneezing and Coughing



Take some time with your child to refresh and/or practise the recommended methods for coughing, sneezing and handwashing i.e. interlocking fingers, circling palms, cleaning thumbs etc. For younger pupils this could involve singing the 'Happy Birthday' song. Make your child aware of the elbow sneeze and the prompt disposal of tissues. Talk to your child about the 3 T's - temperature, throat and taste/smell and make them aware that if they feel they are experiencing any of these symptoms, to let an adult know as soon as possible.

Pupils should wash their hands thoroughly before leaving home every morning.

Curriculum



The Department of Education has released some guidance on curriculum changes as we return to school. Initially the focus in the school will be on Languages (English and Gaeilge), Maths, SPHE and Wellbeing and PE. Once we return, class teachers will begin to assess the pupils' learning and continue to teach from where the children are. It is very likely that teachers will revisit topics taught last year to ensure that pupils are ready to progress. Teachers will use books and workbooks as a guide but will adapt them to suit the needs of the pupils in their rooms.

Wellbeing of the School Community

We will work on the recommended five principles to support the wellbeing of all our pupils and staff.

These are promoting:

- A sense of safety
- A sense of calm
- A sense of belonging and connectedness to school
- A sense of self-efficacy and school-community efficacy
- A sense of hope

Our usual practice is to provide support to pupils based on what is known as the Continuum of Support. This is a tiered system that provides Whole School and Classroom Support for all pupils, additional School Support for some pupils, and School Support plus extra targeted intervention for a few pupils with complex needs.

Special Education Support

Staff members (particularly Special Education Teachers and SNAs) can rotate between areas/classes but this will be minimized where possible.

When rotation occurs, agreed sanitising routines will be observed.

- Where children from 3rd to 6th Class receive support in one of the SET rooms, social distancing of 1 metre will be maintained between each child in the group.
- Initiatives such as “Literacy Lift Off”, “Guided Reading” and “Maths Station” will not be taking place in Term 1 as this would involve moving children into different pods within their class bubble. We await further guidance from DES on the implementation of such initiatives.
- Special Education teachers will wipe clean the tables and chairs in SET rooms in between different groups attending

Distance Learning

In the event that the school must close this year we will be using Seesaw and Google Classroom to continue with Distance Learning. Teachers will be using these platforms in September so that pupils will be prepared in the event that we do have to close.

Homework

Teachers will not be setting any formal homework for the first two weeks when we return. We are doing this to allow pupils time to settle back into school and to get used to the many new routines that are required this year. Teachers will practise spellings, tables and other activities in the afternoon before the pupils go home. We are encouraging pupils to read at home every evening.

Travel from Abroad

The following advice was sent to schools last Friday from the Department of Education. We ask that everyone in our school community follows this advice fully..

‘It is a requirement for anyone coming into Ireland, from locations other than those with a rating of ‘normal precautions’ (“green”), to restrict their movements for 14 days, and this includes school staff, parents and

children or other students coming from abroad to attend school in Ireland. Restricting your movements means staying indoors in one location and avoiding contact with other people and social situations as much as possible.'

Drop and Go



We are still finalising plans for our 'Drop and Go' system in the mornings and collection in the evenings. Plans for this will be sent to parents before we return to school. As outlined in our previous newsletter pupils can be dropped to school from 8.50am to 9.20am. **We do ask that pupils are not dropped before 8.50am.** By having a 30 minute drop off time in the mornings, congestion should not

be an issue in the car park. We will be monitoring this over the first week and will make adjustments if necessary. The school grounds must be used for drop off only. There will be sufficient staff on the ground to escort your child to their entry point and to supervise them safely.

The school will be in contact this week with families who intend using the bus this year regarding this service.

Collection

We will operate a staggered system for collection at the 3pm collection time as follows

- **Children who travel by bus will leave at 2.45pm**
- **Families with a surname beginning A-K will leave at 2.50pm**
- **Families with a surname beginning L-W will leave at 3.00pm**
- **Children attending after school will leave at 3.00pm**

We are operating this system so as to ensure that all our pupils can leave safely and can maintain physical distancing as best as possible at the 3pm collection. We ask that you do not enter the car park to collect your children until the appointed time. Members of staff will be on the yard to ensure that children can be collected safely.

Collection will take place as normal at 2pm. Members of staff will bring the infant classes to the small gate. This will happen this year even in poor weather so please ensure that your child has weather appropriate clothing.

Visitors

Visitors to the school this year will be limited and by appointment only. Visitors will be expected to fill out a contact tracing form. Parents cannot enter the school building this year without prior approval. This will only be granted in very exceptional circumstances. This is to ensure the safety of all in our school community. If you need to contact the class teacher this year, it can be done through a phone call or preferably by email. Once a teacher receives your email, they will ring in the evening if it is deemed necessary. **We ask that you only contact teachers by email during normal working hours of 8.30am to 5.30pm. Please allow teachers time to respond to your email.**

Class	Teacher	Email
Juniors	Ms. Conmy	karenconmy@brureens.ie
Seniors	Ms. O'Dea	annaodea@brureens.ie
1st class	Ms. Hannon	jeanhannon@brureens.ie
2nd class	Ms. Dillon	shaunadillon@brureens.ie

3rd class	Mrs. Murnane	karenmurnane@brureens.ie
4th class	Ms. Hynes	catherinehynes@brureens.ie
5th class	Mr. Reidy	davidreidy@brureens.ie
6th class	Ms. Cussen	roisincussen@brureens.ie
SET	Mrs. Irwin	margaretirwin@brureens.ie
SET	Mrs. Walsh	fionawalsh@brureens.ie
Principal	Mr. Kelleher	office@brureens.ie

Collection of children during the school day

- To limit the number of interactions between parents and staff it is important that children come to school with all the requirements needed for the day. Please ensure that your child's lunch and drink bottle is packed in his/her school bag every morning before school. Parents/Guardians must not return to school during the day unless to collect a sick child.

If an adult has to collect a child during the course of the school day, the following arrangements will apply:

- When the adult arrives at the school, they should either phone the office or use the intercom at the main door of the school by the principal's office to alert us that they have arrived.
- The child will be brought from their class to the adult by a member of staff.
- The adult who is collecting will be asked to sign the child out.
- No adult should enter the school building, unless invited to do so.

Entry/Exits



Classes will enter and exit the school through specific entry and exit doors this year. This is to maintain physical distancing and to keep class bubbles separate from each other where possible. The entry and exit doors are outlined below. Staff will be on hand around the school to guide pupils during the first few weeks back at school until it becomes part of their normal routine.

Entry/Exit Point	Class
Main Door 1 (beside boys' toilets)	6th class
Rear Door to backyard (beside Ms Hannon's room)	5th class
Main Door 2 (beside principal's office)	4th class
Main Door 2 (beside principal's office)	3rd class

Main Door 1 (beside boys' toilets)	2nd class
Rear Door to backyard (beside Ms Hannon's room)	1st class
New Side Door (facing Kilmallock)	Senior Infants
New Side Door (facing Kilmallock)	Junior Infants

Suspected Case of Covid-19



Again we cannot stress how important it is that pupils stay at home if they display any of the following symptoms- if they have a temperature, a cough of any kind, loss of smell/taste or any kind of shortness of breath. Please err on the side of caution to ensure the safety of everyone in the school community. If a pupil does display symptoms during school time, they will be isolated in the school office. Parents will be contacted immediately and we ask that you collect your child as soon as possible.

Children who should not attend school

If your child is in one of the following categories, they should not attend school –

- Children who have been diagnosed with Covid-19
- Children who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19
- Children who have a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
- Children who have been in contact with a person who has a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
- Children with underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school
- Children who have returned home after travelling abroad and must self-isolate for a period of 14 days
- Children who are generally unwell

In St. Patrick's N.S., we encourage and promote good school attendance. However, during the pandemic, if a pupil is showing any of the above symptoms or if you are in any doubt, we want to reassure you that a pupil is better off to stay at home. If a pupil ends up being absent for 20+ days due to any of the symptoms above, this will be noted in their attendance record on Aladdin. The priority is the safety of all pupils.

After School Activities



Current advice is that non-essential after-school activities should not take place for the time being. This means that there will not be after school Art, Speech and Drama or Dancing this year.

Toilets

Juniors, Seniors, 1st and 5th class will each have access to their own toilets within their rooms this year. 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th class will use the shared toilets at either end of the main corridor of the school. Separate cubicles will be marked for each class bubble. Children will use their own designated toilets at break times. Children will be encouraged to use the toilets in their own rooms before they go out on the yard.

Additional Measures to limit interactions

Briefly passing someone in a hall is very unlikely to contribute significantly to the spread of infection if people do not have physical contact and avoid informal group discussions. We will observe our usual practice of keeping distance and we are now using 4 entry points in the school. Children will go straight to their classrooms from the yard and will not congregate in the corridors or hallways. Children will not be sent on errands to other classrooms, the office or the staffroom. Hand shaking and hugging will not be allowed.

Masks

The children are not required to wear masks or face coverings. Staff will wear a mask and/or visor when they cannot maintain 2 metre physical distancing.

New website



The school has developed a new website in recent months and this is now ready to go live. The new website can be found at www.brureens.ie I would like to thank parent, Chris Culhane, for all his hard work in helping us to develop this new site. We hope that you find it useful and informative in the coming months. This new site contains all relevant information for parents and members of the wider school community as well showcasing some of the wonderful daily activities that take place in the school. We will not be sending home newsletters this year. Instead our newsletters will be posted to our site under the 'Parents' then 'Newsletters' tab. We will send out texts and tweets once they are available to view.