

## St Laurence's NS

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## Bunscoil Lorcáin Naofa

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25 February 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

I hope you and your families are keeping well. The following letter outlines some of the procedures that will be implemented to ensure a safe return to school on 1 March 2021 for Junior Infants to 2<sup>nd</sup> Classes.

We appreciate your support as we try to safely reopen the school building. We would politely request that you do not come onto the school grounds or into the school building unless you have been directed to by the Principal/Deputy Principal, or unless you have made a prior arrangement with the Principal.

Special Education Teachers (SETs) and Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) will be on hand in high-vis jackets to help facilitate this system. Working together we hope to be able to progress the reopening in as safe a manner as possible for all.

Please use the information and checklist below for the protocols regarding the safe return to school.

### Declaration

Further to government requirements, it is now **MANDATORY** for parents to complete a Return to Education Declaration before their child returns to school after any absence, including school closures (not weekends). This Declaration will be made available through Aladdin Connect and further details of how the Declaration can be accessed will be provided via a separate email.

### Checklist

- **Junior Infant Arrival:** Junior Infants will continue to enter the school grounds via the gates at the front of the school and proceed to their access doors. Arrival time for Junior Infants will now be 8:50 am to 9.00 am.
- **Junior Infant Dismissal:** Class teachers will continue to accompany the students to the garden at the front of the school at 1.20 pm. Parents will be permitted to enter the grounds at 1.20 pm via the front gates and will be asked to follow a one-way system when exiting the grounds.

- **Senior Infant Arrival:** Senior Infants will continue to enter the school grounds via the gate at the rear of the school by the basketball courts. Arrival time is 8.50 am to 9.00 am.
- **Senior Infant Dismissal:** Class teachers will accompany the students to the black astro turf at 1.30 pm and parents will now access the grounds via the double gates from the school car park when directed by members of staff.
- **1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Classes Arrival:** Parents of students in 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Classes must not enter the school grounds. Pupils should proceed immediately to their classrooms via their allocated access door – staff will be on hand to assist. Arrival time is 8.50 am to 9.00 am.
- **1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Classes Dismissal:** Class teachers will continue to accompany students to the shelter yard where they will line up in their usual places at 2.30 pm. Parents should continue to wait at the double gates (normally used by school tour buses) until directed to enter the school grounds.

**IMPORTANT: There should be no congregation of parents outside schools. Parents are asked to disperse as quickly as possible. We would respectfully ask parents NOT to organise playdates throughout lockdown in line with government legislation and, most importantly, to ensure the effective functioning of PODs/bubbles within the school.**

It is imperative that:

- adults do not come within 2 metres of each other;
- adults wear face masks when on school grounds;
- parents do not try to have meetings with members of staff in the playground at drop-off and collection times – meetings between parents and teachers can only take place by prior arrangement via the Principal.
- parents return to their cars as quickly as possible following drop-off and collection to allow the car park to be used to its maximum potential;
- all parents adhere to the drop-off and collection plans as outlined above.

## Communication

Should you wish to contact the school office, I would ask that you send **an email** rather than telephoning, **except in the case of an emergency**, as the phones may not be manned. Administrative staff will be dispersed throughout the school for much of the day in support of the classes. However, the school email will be checked every fifteen minutes (at a minimum) and we will endeavour to respond to queries as soon as possible.

## Health and Hygiene

Please remember that your child's health is your responsibility.

Please help your child to wash their hands and then check their temperature before they come to school each morning.

## Travel Abroad

Government policy, which is based on official public health advice, continues to advise against non-essential travel overseas for everyone.

**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 pupils or other students coming from abroad to attend school in Ireland.**

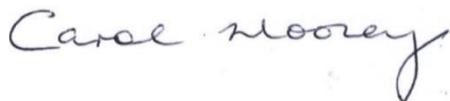
## Parking

Please be advised that Government currently advocate for as many people as possible to walk or cycle to school.

St Laurence's NS are proud to be the owners of a substantial school car park. For this reason, we would ask parents to be considerate of the health and safety of our neighbours during this pandemic and would respectfully ask parents not to park in neighbouring estates at this time.

We look forward to a safe and happy return to school on Monday.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Mooney".

Carol Mooney  
Principal