

St Laurence's NS

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Bunscoil Lorcáin Naofa

Na Clocha Liatha
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28 August 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

The Board of Management and staff of St Laurence's NS are really looking forward to welcoming all of our pupils and parents/guardians back to school for the 2020/2021 school year on Monday, 31 August 2020.

We are satisfied that we have procedures in place to ensure that this will be a safe re-opening. It will take some time for all of us to get used to the "new circumstances" as we become familiar with the new routines and procedures designed to keep everyone safe and to prevent the spread of the virus. There will, undoubtedly, be some unforeseen challenges and we will deal with these as they arise.

We would like to thank you for your support to date and look forward to working with you as we all adapt to the necessary changes. We are also conscious of the fact that our pupils have not been in school since March and that they are looking forward to coming back to school to meet their friends again. We are aware that our new pupils are beginning a school year at a challenging time and have made plans to ensure that their arrival will be as free from stress as possible.

The Minister for Education, Norma Foley, has asked us to make parents/guardians aware of the following that are available at www.gov.ie/en/publication/2d3af-advice-during-covid-19-back-to-school-advice-for-parents/:

- Video for parents with key information on supporting children to return to school;
- Fliers for parents – these are attached in this email but are also available for download;
- Material from the HSE on recognising symptoms, which complements the material from the Department on returning to school;
- Age-appropriate videos for children and young people at different stages. Videos for primary (both junior and senior level);
- Resources in a wide range of languages. Many schools will enjoy a huge diversity among their student and parent community. To support these parents, we have translated guidance for parents at gov.ie/backtoschool.

I would now like to draw your attention to the following housekeeping matters:

Money Collections

Reminders are being sent out via Aladdin regarding payment of the Administrative (Compulsory) Fee of €100 per pupil. If you have not already done so, please can you ensure

Roll Number 19573F

that the Administrative (Compulsory) Fee is paid prior to our return to school on Monday, 31 August 2020. If you are experiencing financial difficulty, please contact the school office.

Return of School Books Belonging to St Laurence's NS

Please can you return all books belonging to St Laurence's NS. As you are aware, we were not in a position to collect these when the school abruptly closed on 12 March 2020 and would therefore ask your child to bring these in on the first day back to school as we need to repatriate them to the relevant classes for this year's teaching. I would propose therefore that the children bring all of this year's books, and lunch, in their rucksacks and, in addition, I would like them to bring last year's books in a plastic bag (labelled with their names). These bags will be collected from them by this year's teacher once they are in their new classrooms.

Return of Books Belonging to Pupils

For those of you who were not in a position to collect your child's bagged books on the allocated days during the summer, we will be sending these books home with the children on Monday, 31 August 2020.

Car Parking/Walking to School

As mentioned in previous correspondence, Government advice is for as many people as possible to walk or cycle to school. Again, 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.

Members of the Parents' Association have been asked to assist in the car park and slip road areas to try to keep everything moving. They are volunteers and we would please you to be respectful and to follow their directions.

Parking Etiquette:

- **Slip road** at the front of the school is for **DROP-OFF ONLY** from 8.30 am to 9.30 am. There should be no waiting or parking. Child(ren) should disembark immediately and car should leave the slip road promptly.
- **Staff car park** is clearly signed and is at the upper end of our car park area with posts dividing it from the general car park area. Please **do not** (i) drive through the staff car park to gain access to the general car park, (ii) park in the staff car park **at any time**.
- **Bus Drop-Off Layby** located at the top end of the car park area is for creche buses **only** at all times. Please **do not** (i) stop to drop your child off here, or (ii) park here.
- **General Drop-Off Layby** located at the bottom end of the car park area is for the use of parents/guardians (or those dropping children to school). As with the slip road at the front of the school, there should be no waiting or parking. Child(ren) should disembark immediately and car should leave the layby promptly.
- **General Car Park** located at the bottom of the car park area is for parking where a parent/guardian needs to accompany their child(ren) to their line or to the school gates.

Please vacate the car park as soon as possible to allow others to use the same and to keep the school traffic flowing as fast possible.

Contacting the School

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

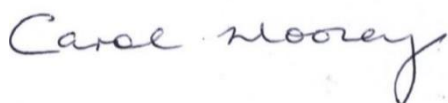
Government policy, which is based on official public health advice, continues to advise against non-essential travel overseas for everyone.

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.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the supportive messages that have been received here in school and would like to ask for your extended patience while we adjust to our "new normal". I leave you with a heartfelt prayer from Archbishop's House as we return to school

"In order to keep our communities safe, we have had to spend time apart but now we are back together again. There are changes to our school, but we all understand that they are necessary to keep us all safe and well. We thank God that we have been able to open our school and be together again as a school community. Through God's love we have hope in the future. The news headlines may continue to remind us of the presence of coronavirus in our country and we might be worried or anxious about how it might affect us or our families or friends, but we trust in God and through our prayers we ask him to keep us safe."

Yours sincerely



Carol Mooney
Principal