

20 Lúnasa 2020

A chairde,

I hope you are all well. We are progressing our plans to reopen the school next week. Please find some of the detail below to keep you up to date. As mentioned previously we are anxious to ensure we reopen the school safely in a manner that ensures the new systems won't impact on the normal atmosphere in school.

In order to reduce the spread of Covid 19 the following aspects need to be prioritised:

- Hand hygiene
- Social distancing
- Respiratory hygiene
- Environmental hygiene

We have the completed / are completing the following actions in Pobalscoil to ensure that these aspects are being attended to:

- Hand wash basins installed in the corridors.
- Hand sanitiser dispensers installed in every classroom and in the corridors.
- Classrooms rearranged to ensure a minimum of 1m social distancing between students.
- Lockers relocated to classrooms.
- Extra furniture will be in the corridors at break time.
- Posters and awareness signs hung throughout the building.
- Induction training being completed by all staff.
- A set of Chromebooks purchased to reduce the pressure on the computer rooms.
- A reusable mask and face visor is being provided for every student and member of staff.

New systems being implemented:

- Defined entry and exit points for each year group.
- Hands to be washed with water and soap on entering the school and regularly throughout the day.
- Hands to be sanitised regularly throughout the day also. This is to accompany the hand washing **not** to replace it.
- Mask / Face Visor to be worn.
- Every year group is located in their own area in the school.
- Every class has a base classroom.
- There will be staggered break times for some year groups.
- Every year group will have their own area at break time.

- Each year group will be linked to their own toilet block.
- There will be an enhanced cleaning regime in place during the school day.
- Isolation units available in the event of a Covid 19 case presenting during the school day.
- Canteen is closed for September. This will be reviewed at the end of that month.
- Students that travel to school by bus will also be required to wear a mask/face covering. It is also advised that they sit with a sibling on the bus where this applies or otherwise with a class mate.

We understand that we are sharing a lot of detailed information with you. We want to keep everyone in the school community up to date. We are always grateful for the continuous support from both parents and students. We are requesting that everyone adheres to the following advice to ensure that the health and safety of the entire school community is protected as we stand strongly together against this virus.

### **Parents / Guardians**

We advise to carefully check your son / daughter each morning to ensure that they don't have one or more of the following symptoms:

- A fever (We recommend checking your child's temperature every morning)
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath
  - Lost or changed sense of taste or smell
- If your son/daughter has one of these symptoms or if he/she is identified as a close contact of a Covid 19 case they have to be kept at home from school and contact your doctor.
  - We will be expecting the school uniform to be worn as normal except for the day that your son/daughter has Physical Education.
  - A tracksuit with sports gear worn underneath can be worn on the day that PE takes place.
  - It is recommended to wash the school uniform at least twice a week, at the weekend and on the day that they have PE.
  - Wash reusable face masks every evening at 60 degrees.
  - Advise your child of the importance of avoiding physical contact with other students or staff members including handshaking, hugging etc
  - Arrangement for necessary visitors such as contractors and parents will be restricted to essential purposes and limited to those who have obtained prior approval from the principal. An appointment can be sought by emailing [oifig@pcd07.ie](mailto:oifig@pcd07.ie).

- Once an appointment has been arranged the parent / guardian can present themselves at the school office. A face mask / visor will have to be worn if the appointment is during the school day.
- Anyone attending the school will have to complete a Contact Tracing Log.

## **Students**

**On the first day back go straight to the Sports Hall in school. All of the new arrangements will be explained there. You don't need to worry about them as they are there to protect everyone.**

**We are really looking forward to welcoming you back after our enforced break that has gone on too long. We miss you. The building is too quiet and we are anticipating the clamour and energy of your return.**

## **Important Notice - School App**

It is of vital importance that every household has access to the school app. All school information, all payments and most school business will be processed through the app when school reopens. As part of this please find attached an information sheet on the new sign in and sign out system. We will no longer be accepting the paper notes from the school diaries.

We understand that we are asking a lot of everyone in the school community. This is for the greater good and hopefully will allow us to keep the school opened as fully as possible for as long as possible. School will be different. Compromises will have to be made. We will become accustomed to it. At all times we will be striving to ensure that we are providing as full an educational experience as possible for all students. We will approach every challenge with a positive and common sense attitude and through flexible thinking and co operation we will succeed.

Le buíochas,

Éamonn Mac Muiris  
Príomhoide