



St. John of God G.N.S. August Newsletter 2 2020



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to newsletter 2. This newsletter will deal with some of the practical arrangements for school including arrangements for dropping off and collecting the children. I will also talk about how break times will be managed so you know what is going on and outline how the classrooms have been laid out.

We are extremely lucky in this school to have plenty of space for the children to use at break times and relatively small class sizes. This has made the gigantic task of preparing the school for reopening safely easier than schools with very large populations. In short, we are blessed!

All adults will be wearing a face covering (most likely a visor) inside the building when 2m distancing cannot be achieved. It is not recommended for children under 13 to wear face coverings. We will be protecting the children through very diligent hand hygiene and through the implementation of distancing measures. We also have in place a greatly increased cleaning regime throughout the day every day and will keep all rooms well ventilated.

Minimizing the Risk of Spread

There are two ways to use distancing as a means of minimizing the risk of spread.

1. **Increase separation**
2. **Decrease interaction**

To **increase separation** we have spent the summer going through all the furniture in every classroom, sorting out what is essential and what is unnecessary and removing all unnecessary furniture to storage. This has increased the available space in each classroom and has allowed us to achieve **1m distancing in between every pupil in every class**. Both the teacher's desk and SNA desk where applicable are both also a minimum of 1m away from the nearest child. This is the optimum layout possible and we are delighted to have achieved it.

To **decrease interaction** and limit the number of close contacts the children will have, **each class is treated as its own bubble**. We will also be using **pods within class groupings**. The children will be assigned to a pod (approx. 3-5 pupils in each pod) and they will stay in this grouping throughout the day. Pods within classes won't mix as far as is practicable inside, sharing of equipment will be kept to an absolute minimum and they will only use their own work stations.

Breaktimes:

Each class will only mix with other children from their class from arrival at school to departure from school. To this end the yard has been zoned for break-times with each class in a separate zone. The children will be assigned a zone for the week and then rotated so that each class bubble enjoys the different zones in their section (Junior/Senior) over the course of a month.

Senior Zones (3rd-6th Class):

Astroturf Pitch 1; Astroturf Pitch 2; Sprint Track; Activity Boards to Mural Wall

Junior Zones (Junior Infants-2nd Class):

Infant Playground, Infant Yard, Main Yard, Main Playground



*The only exception to classes staying strictly in their bubbles will be 4th class – both 4th classes will be zoned together for break-times outside to allow them to play with all their friends regardless of the split they are in.

We will be using all available entry and exit points for break times and dismissal so as to minimise the number of children congregating at these points.

Front Door: J. Infants, S. Infants, 3rd class and 4th class A

Back Door 1: 4th class B (Ms. Feery), 5th class, 6th class

Back Door 2: 1st class, 2nd class

Break-times are staggered by 5 minutes to ensure the classes are using different exit and entry points.

Group 1 (J./1st/3rd/5th) 10.25-10.40; 12.00-12.10; 12.10-12.35

Group 2 (S./2nd/4th/6th) 10.30-10.45; 12.05-12.15; 12.15-12.40

Arrangements for Arrival at School:

Our aim here is to reduce as much as possible the number of people arriving and congregating at the same time and to decrease all opportunities for situations where social distancing might not be adhered to. **We are asking parents to drop their children off at the school between 8:35 and 8:50. PLEASE DO NOT DROP YOUR CHILD OFF BEFORE 8:35 AND LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.**

The work being done on our entranceway should be finished next Wednesday 26th August. A one-way system will be in place. We have bought steel pedestrian barriers which will run along the driveway from the little yellow gate all the way down to the drive-in entrance. This will cordon off pedestrians on their way out from the cars. We will have footprint stencils marked out 2m apart the whole way up the narrow entrance bit as far as the yellow gate in one colour to show you the entrance route and how far apart to keep from the person in front of you. **All parents (except for Infant parents) will be asked to leave their child either at the main pedestrian gate (before they come onto the school grounds) or at this little yellow gate and leave immediately via the exit route** enclosed by the steel barriers with footprint stencils marked out in a different colour to the entrance route. The children will walk straight up to the front door where I will greet them. They will then hang up their coat on their designated coat hook, wash their hands, enter their class and go straight to their seat.

As unsociable as it may sound, please don't hang around the gate or yard. We would ask all parents for their cooperation with these arrangements to ensure everyone's safety and protection.



Collection Zone 1 is the pitch nearest the wall, Collection Zone 2 is the pitch nearest the school

Arrangements for Dismissal of Pupils:

We have coordinated with St. Davids and will be staggering the dismissal of pupils.

Junior and Senior Infants:

Collection of Junior and Senior Infants remains unchanged. Parents will wait near the front door, ensuring they maintain 2m distance from other parents. Teachers will give children out to waiting parents one by one at 1:30

At 2:20 1st, 3rd and 5th class will be dismissed.

1st class go to collection zone 1. Children will be released to parents one by one.
3rd class go to collection zone 2. Children will be released to parents one by one. Those walking home will then be brought to the gate.
5th class will be brought straight to the gate.

At 2:30 2nd, 4th and 6th class will be dismissed.

2nd class go to collection zone 1. Children will be released to parents one by one.
4th class go to collection zone 2. Children will be released to parents one by one. Those walking home will then be brought to the gate.
6th class will be brought straight to the gate.

Please leave immediately to help us avoid clusters at the gate. We greatly appreciate your cooperation with these arrangements.

Le Meas,
Aoife McNicholas

