

St. Michael's & St. Patrick's N.S. (Roll No. 19720P)

Cootehall

Boyle

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071-9667264

10th March 2021

Dear Parents,

The HSE and Department of Health have reaffirmed that the gradual phased reopening of schools will proceed as planned. Therefore, we are delighted to welcome our 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th students back to the classroom on Monday March 15th. It has been a long wait, but we are nearly there!

It has been great the way our younger students have settled back into the daily routine of the classroom these past two weeks. We were really pleased to see all the happy faces meet our staff at the gate every morning ready for a school day of work and play.

We would like to commend the senior students on their great work during these last few weeks of remote learning. The teachers have a library of marvellous work completed by students during this period of remote learning. We are very appreciative of the continued support and dedication shown by all in the school community during this strange time.

In order to continue the smooth and successful reopening of our school we have a reminder of the important requests we ask of all our school community.

In order to minimise the numbers gathering at the start and the end of school we will continue with the timetable of staggered drop off and collection times.

The timetable is as follows:

	Families A-L	Families M- Z	School Bus	Breakfast Club/After school
Arrival Time	9.15 a.m.	9.20 a.m.	9.25 a.m.	9.15 a.m.
Dismissal Time	3.10 p.m.	3.15 p.m.	3.10 p.m.	3.15 p.m.

To ensure the smooth running of this arrangement, supervision will start at 9:15 a.m., and finish at 3:20p.m. The Board of Management cannot accept responsibility for any pupils on the school premises outside of these hours.

Breakfast Club, Small Afterschool (from 2.10pm -3.10pm) or Afterschool (3.10pm-6pm) services are being operated by Ardcarne Community Childcare services as per normal.

The Junior Infant and Senior Infant students finish at 2.10 p.m. The infant teacher uses the remaining hour for class preparation and organisation. The school buses are operating as per their normal schedule.

We ask that all students arrive and are collected at agreed times please. **We ask that students do not leave their vehicle and enter the school grounds until a staff member opens and is present at the main school gate.** This is to ensure that all students on the school grounds are appropriately supervised.

When pupils are dropped off at the school at their designated time, they must proceed unaccompanied through the open main gate directly to their classroom and are not permitted to congregate/play in the school yard on arrival or on collection from school.

Parents must ensure that appropriate arrangements are put in place for assembly and dismissal of pupils. We ask that all parents adhere to Public Health Guidelines and please do not congregate at the school.

In order to minimise the risk of Introduction of COVID-19 into Schools:

Staff and Pupils are not to return to school or attend school in the event of the following:

- if they display any signs or symptoms of COVID 19
- If they are identified by the HSE as a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19
- If they live with someone who has symptoms of the virus
- If they have travelled outside of Ireland: in such instances they are advised to consult and follow the latest Government Advice in relation to foreign travel.
- Staff and pupils must cooperate with any public health officials and the school for contract tracing purposes and follow any public health advice in the event of a case or outbreak in the school.

Pupils and staff will perform hand hygiene:

- On leaving and entering vehicles.
- On arrival and leaving the school.
- Before eating or drinking.
- After using the toilet.
- After playing outdoors.
- When their hands are physically dirty.
- When they cough or sneeze.

We ask that all books/writing equipment are sanitised using alcohol wipes before being placed in the child's schoolbag. Please ensure that all of your child's equipment/books/copies are labelled with the child's name as equipment/books cannot and will not be shared. Please ensure your child has a pencil case for home use and another one for school use. Homework will not be given until after Easter; however, we would strongly encourage each pupil to read as extensively as possible during this time.

We ask that any schoolbooks from 3rd to 6th class that are being returned from the home are put in a separate bag please. These will then be put in quarantine/storage for the recommended period of time and sanitised.

Please ensure your child can open/close their own coat and tie their own shoes. Shoes with Velcro should be used where pupils are unable to tie their own. Please label all your child's belongings.

Staff members will wear recommended face coverings. All adult visitors to school grounds MUST WEAR suitable face coverings. There is no requirement for pupils to wear face coverings.

Communication between home and school will be by e mail, text, Aladdin and through our school website at the moment. Face to face meetings will only be used in exceptional circumstances. If you wish to contact your child's teacher, please email the teacher, or leave a message on the school phone (071-9667264). We will endeavour to return your email or call as soon as possible. Teachers can be contacted directly by email at the following email addresses:

Class	Teacher	Email address
Junior Infants	Ms. Brennan	deirdrebrennanschool@gmail.com
Senior Infants & 1 st Class	Ms. Conroy/Ms. Brennan	lconroydbrennan@gmail.com
1 st & 2 nd Class	Mr. Conboy	lccootehall@gmail.com
3 rd & 4 th Class	Ms. Tansey	tanya.tansey3@gmail.com
5 th & 6 th Class	Mr. Duffy	cootehallns@gmail.com
S.E.T.	Ms. Martin	camartin053@gmail.com
S.E.T.	Ms. Gilhooly	agilhoolyschool@gmail.com

All parents/guardians must complete a Return to Education Form in respect of all children from 3rd to 6th class returning to school this Monday March 15th.

Please click [here](#) to fill the Return to Education Form.

All parents/guardians must complete an Absence Form in respect of all children after any absence from school. Please click [here](#) for an Absence Form.

We welcome Ms Anna Corcoran who will be doing Teaching Placement in 5th & 6th class for the remainder of term in line with all current guidelines.

We thank you all for your continued support in ensuring the continued successful reopening of our school after this enforced closure. If you have any further questions or queries, please contact us at the school.

Kind regards and take care,

Cian Duffy
Principal.