

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

Cootehall

Boyle

F52TV26

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071-9667264

25th August 2021

Dear Parents,

We look forward to welcoming everybody with a big smile even though we will be wearing face coverings for the new school year which starts next Monday 30th of August. We hope that you all had a nice relaxing, safe and enjoyable holiday. We are sure to be amazed by how much our students have grown over the summer and we will be eager to listen to all the holiday stories and adventures.

We give a huge welcome to our 17 new Junior Infants and all our other new arrivals in the other classes. We hope that you enjoy your time in Cootehall National School. We have great people in our school and there is no doubt that you will receive a warm friendly welcome.

Due to the current pandemic, we will have similar procedures in place in school this year to ensure that we can make our school as safe as possible for all our students. Although we are all well practiced in this 'new normal' we look forward to the time when we can return to a somewhat 'old normal'. Until then we will continue to follow HSE and Department of Education guidance for the safety of all in our school.

There will undoubtedly be new unforeseen challenges this year and we thank you all in advance for your patience, kindness and cooperation. We will continue to regularly review these procedures and adjust things as necessary.

on information received from the Department of Education and the HSE pupils are not to return to school or attend school in the event of the following:

They have:

- a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- any other common symptoms of COVID-19 –
 - a new cough,
 - loss or changed sense of taste or smell,
 - shortness of breath or
 - an existing breathing condition that has recently become worse
- been in [close contact](#) with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19**
- been living with someone who is unwell and may have COVID-19
- other uncommon symptoms of COVID-19, such as sore throat or headaches or diarrhoea

School Arrival and Dismissal

In our school we have 86 families. Students will be arriving to school from the Breakfast club run by Ardcarne Community Childcare Group, School Bus, Car and Bicycle/Walk.

At the end of the school day students will be leaving by School Bus, Car and Bicycle/Walk and may also be availing of the after-school services run by Ardcarne Community Childcare Group.

The school staff will supervise assembly and dismissal times to help in the smooth running of this staggered arrival and dismissal times.

To ensure the smooth running of this, **supervision starts at 9:15 a.m.**, and finishes at **3:25p.m.** The Board of Management accepts no responsibility for any pupils on the school premises outside of these hours.

The timetable and format for Arrival and Dismissal times at our school remains the same as last year.

| | 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 | 3.15 p.m. | 3.20 p.m. | 3.10 p.m. | 3.15 p.m. |

To ensure a smooth transition the same parking arrangements as last year will be in place.



On their first day of school Junior Infants will start at 10a.m.

For the first 2 weeks to ensure a safe and successful start into their life at school the Junior Infant Day will finish at 12.30p.m.

From Monday September 13th the Junior Infants will finish their day at 2.10p.m.

Junior Infant and Senior Infant students' day finish at 2.10 p.m. The infant teacher uses the remaining hour for class preparation and organisation.

- We ask that all students arrive and are collected at agreed times.
- **We ask that students do not enter the school grounds until a staff member opens and is present at the school gate.** This is to ensure that all students on the school grounds are appropriately supervised.
- When pupils are dropped at their designated time, they must proceed unaccompanied through the open main gate directly to their classroom.
- Pupils WILL NOT be permitted to congregate/play in the school yard on arrival/dismissal.
- Parents MUST ENSURE that appropriate arrangements are put in place for assembly and dismissal of pupils.

Parental responsibilities on assembly/dismissal:

- Parents must arrive on time for dropping off and collecting their child.
- Only parents or carers who are well and have no symptoms of COVID-19 or who have served the required quarantine time of 14 days where advised are allowed to drop off and collect children.
- Any parent who is in a very high-risk category should not drop off or collect children in order to protect themselves.
- Parents must not congregate in groups.
- Parents who are permitted on school grounds (Junior Infants on 1st day and pupils with additional needs) must wear suitable face coverings. There is no requirement for pupils to wear face coverings.
- We ask that parents do not congregate on or outside school grounds.
- At arrival and departure times of children, social distancing is to be maintained by children and parents.

School Books, Uniforms and Lunches

Parents must ensure that all the child's equipment/books/copies are labelled with the child's name as equipment/books cannot and will not be shared.

We are asking parents to ensure your child has a pencil case for home use and another one for school use. The pencil case used at home will not be brought to school and the pencil case used in school will not be brought home.

We ask that any schoolbooks that are being returned from the last school year be put in a separate bag. These will then be put in quarantine/storage for the recommended period and sanitised.

We ask that all students wear the correct uniform. Please note school uniform policy states we have a plain grey trouser, skirt, pinafore, or tracksuit. Please label your child's school jumper and coat.

Parents MUST ensure that pupils have sufficient lunch/drink coming to school each morning as we will not be in a position to accept and distribute lunches during the school day.

Please remind your children not to share their food or drinks with other children.

Please make sure your child is self-sufficient i.e., they can open/peel any lunch/drink you pack for them. Please pay particular attention to any drinks that require a straw.

Homework notebooks will be given to all students in the new school year. The homework notebook contains an abridged version of our School Code of Behaviour. This homework notebook forms an important part of the lines of communication between home and school.

School Contribution

The school are requesting a contribution of **€40 per pupil**. This amount has remained unchanged for the last 13 years. This amount goes towards the cost of School Book Rental Scheme, homework notebook, art supplies, photocopying and Pupil Personal Accident Insurance. We would be grateful if this could be paid early in the next school year. We will send out details on how to pay this contribution in September online through Way2Pay.

School Staff

We welcome Ms. Christine McLoughlin to our school again. She will be working as SET in Ms. Tansey's absence.

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

If your child is absent from school for any reason all parents/guardians must complete an Absence. Please click [here](#) for an Absence Form.

We thank you all for your continued support. If you have any further questions or queries, please contact us at the school. We wish you all a wonderful and happy school year.

Kind regards and take care,

Cíán Duffy
Principal.