

St. Dominic's National School

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Principal: Séamus Vaughan
Deputy Principal: Máire Meenan

Roll Number: 20468P

14th August 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian,

RE: Physical Distancing and Safe School Attendance

We are currently working on upgrading our procedures and routines within the school to ensure that there is as much Physical Distancing as is possible in our building. We will apply physical distancing in a practical and sensible way, recognising that the learning environment cannot be dominated by a potentially counterproductive focus on this issue.

Physical Distancing will be achieved in two ways: -

Increasing Separation. This will be achieved by re-configuring the classrooms to maximise physical distancing. Each class will be referred to as a bubble and we will ensure that there is as little contact as possible between children in different bubbles. Within the bubbles, children will be organised into pods. A pod is a group of children (normally 6) who will sit together and who will stay in their pod while in the bubble, or classroom.

Decreasing Interaction. This will be achieved by decreasing the potential for children from different bubbles to interact. There will be marked routes for various bubbles to enter and exit the school and to access their classrooms. Bubbles will have different mid-morning and lunch-time access to the playground. We will make these routines enjoyable activities for the children, emphasising safety at all times.

While all children will be welcome back to school, we would remind parents that, where children are displaying colds, coughs or flu like symptoms, they should not be sent to school. Children who display such symptoms in school will be isolated and parents asked to collect them from the school.

Children who have travelled from countries not on the Green List should not attend school during the 14-day self-isolation period

Further information on COVID-19 symptoms in children is available at: -

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/if-your-child-has-symptoms.html>

Teachers will make children aware of the proper hygiene procedures regarding hand washing and etiquette related to sneezing, coughing or spitting. We would be grateful if you could also emphasise safe behaviour in this regard to your children at home as part of the preparation for returning to school.

*Celebrating 50 years
1970 – 2020*

Our aim remains to re-open the school in an orderly safe manner, while reassuring the children and making them feel comfortable, safe and relaxed with their friends in the new school environment.

When will I hear more news?

On **Friday 21st August** we will publish our logistics plan which will outline the measures the school is taking to ensure a safe return for all pupils. This document will outline details of the staggered start times, break times and changes to any procedures in the school. On this date, the Following documents will be published on our website:

1. St Dominic's Logistics Plan
2. St Dominic's COVID Response Plan
3. Risk Assessment
4. Classroom Layout
5. Access Map

On **Friday 28th August**, I plan to hold a live webinar to show pupils & parents what our classrooms and corridors look like, in advance of our full reopening on Tuesday 1st September. Parents will have an opportunity to ask questions in advance of the webinar that I can answer.

Please note: Our office will reopen on Tuesday 25th August for uniforms and payments. We will have a system in place to queue outside the building. I am also available by email on secretary@stdominicsns.ie if you have any immediate questions.

Le Meas,



Seamus Vaughan

Principal

We're Going Back To School

