

St. Dominic's National School

Mountain Park,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24.

Phone: 01-4512443

Fax: 01-4512219

Principal: Séamus Vaughan

Deputy Principal: Maire Meenan

E-Mail: secretary@stdominicsns.ie

September Newsletter 2020

School Return

Our school is open now for two weeks. It is wonderful to see our classrooms and yard full with children again. Our new procedures are working very well so far. All of these procedures are new to us all and it will take time to become familiar with them. We may make some changes as the year progresses if we find a simpler or safer way to do things.

Children with symptoms

As a parent, some of the most difficult decisions we have to make are around our children's health. We don't want them to miss school. But we are also aware of the great risk in sending in our child with any COVID-19 symptoms. It is important that you do not send your child to school with any of these symptoms. Thank you to all the parents who have made these tough decisions already. I understand how difficult it is, but it will help our school remain COVID free.

What are the Symptoms?

Your child should stay at home if they have any **one** of these symptoms:

- A cough
- A high temperature (above 38C)
- Breathing Difficulties
- Loss of taste or sense of smell

The next action you should take is to phone your GP for advice.

Attendance Concerns

When you follow the advice it is inevitable that your child will miss more school than normal. There is no difficulty with this and do not be concerned. We will record daily attendance as normal, but we will not be making any referrals to Education Welfare Services on foot of these absences. We will not be sending any reminder texts about attendance or number of days missed. We also will not have any attendance prizes or rewards this year in school. Our rewards system will focus on good hygiene instead. We will continue to support families in the usual way where attendance was a concern pre-Covid.

Staff and Covid-19

Covid-19 can affect everybody. There is nobody immune to this virus. As a staff, we have spoken of our responsibility if we have Covid-19 symptoms also. You can expect staff to be out more frequently from school also this year. They too, will be doing what is necessary to help prevent the spread of the virus. We will be using substitute teachers/SNA's or our support teachers when no substitute is available. We will not be dividing a class around other classes in the school.

Positive Covid-19 cases

I am aware that some schools have reported positive cases. This is something that will continue to happen as the year goes on. I have spoken to local schools to see what response was required at school level when this happens. It is important note we must follow the direction of the HSE when a positive case emerges in a school setting. They will inform us of the correct steps to take. At no time will staff be in a position to discuss the health status of any pupil or staff member.

HSCL News

Hi everyone and welcome back. I hope you are all well and settling in OK. I won't be visiting as much as I usually would this year but I am still available for garden visits if anyone would like to see me. If I am calling to you I will make sure to wash and sanitise my hands and wear a mask. You can call/text me on 0863311996 for a chat. Or we can arrange a brief meeting in school. We are lucky in St. Dominic's to have great parental engagement with the school and want to preserve this as much as possible. We will be looking at ways parents can safely get involved, if you have any ideas please pass them on!

Keep in touch

Laura Murphy

Bikes & Scooters

It is wonderful to see so many children coming to school on bikes and scooters each day. While we have good weather this should continue. Please lock the bike or scooter on arrival. Please don't use the bikes and scooters in the yard. We don't want anyone to be knocked over.

Communication

Communication links between home and school have always been important. It is a little more difficult now as we try to keep the school a safe space with very little visitors. Thank you for your cooperation with this to date. Please use phone/email to communicate with your child's teacher. Each teacher has a school email and will respond to a query after school-time. I am also available to meet parents. Please phone me beforehand and we will book a day and time.

Newsletters

I will continue with monthly newsletters during the year, but this will be the last paper copy you receive. We will avoid sending paper home this year. We will use a digital option whenever possible. Newsletters will be sent home via email and the website.

New Staff

We welcome Ms. Coyle, Ms Walsh, Ms. McCormack, Ms. McBride and Ms Duff who are all new to our staff this year.

New Arrival

Congratulations to Ms Emma Larkin who had a baby boy Eoghan, recently. We wish Emma and Jason our very best. Ms Louise O'Donoghue also had a baby girl recently. Congratulations to Louise and Conor on the arrival of baby Grace.

Stay Safe,

Séamus Vaughan, Principal