



Scoil Mhuire, Leixlip

office@scoilmhuireleixlip.com (01)6244851

13th August, 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We hope you are all well and enjoying the last few weeks of the summer holidays.

We are writing to you to give you an update on preparations for the reopening of the school.

It is the aim of the Board of Management and staff to reopen our school on Monday, 31st August based on current advice and guidance.

The staff is busy at the moment reconfiguring classrooms to optimise social distancing and to reduce interaction in order to ensure the safety of all in our school community.

We are aware that you are anxious to know the specifics relating to drop off and collection routines, movement routines within the school etc. These are currently being devised in consultation with the Boards of Management and the staffs of the three schools on the Green Lane campus. We will be in regular contact with you over the next few weeks to inform you of the specific procedures and protocols that we are putting in place to ensure that the return to school is as safe and as smooth as possible. These have not been finalised yet.

At this stage, we would like to bring the **following general points** to your attention as we are aware that you as parents and guardians are making preparations for your child/ren's return to school.

To accommodate 900 children arriving and dispersing safely from the campus, **it is highly likely that:**

- there will be small changes to the start and finish times of the school day.
- our new Junior Infants will not start until 10 a.m. for the first week.
- parents/guardians/minders won't have access to the school grounds in the morning. Staff members will be at the gates to direct the children to their classrooms. (An exception will be made for our Junior Infant classes for the first week)

To avoid having too many people in the yard or entering and exiting the gates, it is highly likely that parents of senior children in 4th, 5th and 6th classes will not be able to come onto the school grounds in the morning or afternoon. Bearing this in mind, it would be advisable for you to agree on a safe location where you can meet your senior child at the end of the school day. You could pick the location now and practise the route to this location with your child in the coming weeks. We would discourage you from meeting them directly outside the school gate as we are trying to avoid congestion in this area. We need to consider the safety of nearly 900 children. Many senior children will, of course, walk home unaccompanied.

It is highly likely that most PE classes/physical activities and of course break times will take place outdoors. This could include in inclement weather. We ask you to bear this in mind when sourcing clothes and footwear for your child/ren for returning to school. It would be advisable for the children to wear warm rainproof jackets/coats/footwear and as the weather gets colder please consider extra layers and hats, scarves and gloves.

There have been some queries regarding the wearing of the school uniform. It is our intention to continue with our uniform policy.

On our return to school, staff will make children aware of social distancing and 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 child/ren at home as part of the preparation for returning to school. Please talk to your child about social distancing in your own workplace or in shops and restaurants.

We are working hard 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. This will be achieved by all of us working together towards this common goal.

Thank you as always for your wonderful support.

Stay safe.

Nora Mescal

Principal

Paul Carey

Chairperson, Board of Management