



## **Back to School - Safety Precautions:**

Returning to school or starting school for the first time in the current climate is a stressful and nervous time for all. By following the Government's Road Map for a full return to school and taking public health advice into account we have planned a safe and calm return to St. Philip's Junior School for all our students on September 1st.

***The following Measures and Operational Changes are going to be implemented in our school:***

### **1. Supporting and Promoting good hand hygiene;**

Children should arrive at school with clean hands. Throughout the day staff and children will clean their hands by washing or sanitizing;

- on arrival at school
- before eating or drinking
- after using the toilet
- after petting animals
- after playing outdoors
- when their hands are physically dirty
- when they cough or sneeze

Children will be taught the correct way to wash, dry, and sanitize their hands and by doing this regularly will help keep each other safe.

Two pump hand sanitizers have been installed in each classroom as well as many stations throughout the school.

### **2. Good respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette;**

We have posters placed in all classrooms and throughout the school promoting good respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.

- Children will be taught to 'catch' their sneezes and coughs in a tissue, to dispose of the tissue, and to wash their hands.



**3. Enhanced cleaning regimes;**

- The school has been thoroughly cleaned before the children return to school and our daily cleans of classrooms have been increased by 2hrs to allow for daily cleaning of tables, chairs, and touch points around the school.
- Classrooms will be well ventilated every day with windows and doors kept open for a lot of the day. Classes will also be encouraged to take regular breaks/lessons outside. Children should be dressed for the weather.
- Toys and resources which are shared either within a class or between classes will be washed and sanitized or quarantined before being allocated to next group or class.

**4. Maintaining physical distancing in the classroom and around the school;**

As our school is a Junior School the children are not obliged to maintain social distance from each other within the classroom. The following does apply;

- Each class is referred to as a **bubble**. There will be very limited contact between students from each bubble within the school. E.g. In the yard each class bubble is designated a particular area to play in. Children may play with all the children in their own bubble.
- In each class bubble the children will be split into groups to sit at, now called **Pods**. The children will spend the majority of the day in these pods and will not share items (toys, art materials, etc.) with children from other pods. Pods/groups shall be set up 1 metre apart and all classrooms will be set up according to the guidelines from the department of education.
- When moving around the school there are some one-way systems in place. The classes will also use the routes outside to get from one area of the school to another.
- Support teachers and SNA's have been timetabled for September to ensure minimal contact between classes while still providing all necessary supports.



*In order to minimise the risk of introduction of infection in our schools we ask all parents to adhere to the following measures;*

- Children may not attend school if they are in anyway unwell. They may not attend if they have a cough (of any kind unless medical certificate indicates reason), fever, or shortness of breath. These are the 3 main symptoms of Covid-19.
- Parents access to the school is limited for arrival and departure times in the morning (see update 1). Any other parental access to the school should be by appointment only (by phone or email).
- Please maintain a social distance of 2metres at all times when on and around the school campus, and avoid any social gatherings.
- Should pupils have essential appointments, parents should let the school know expected arrival time in advance. 3 people maximum are allowed in reception. Please always wear a face covering when in the school grounds.
- If you have recently returned from holiday and the country you have visited is not on the up to date green list, make sure you and your child quarantine for the correct amount of time. Please let the school know of your child's expected return date to school.

We have strict policies and procedures in regards to what to do if a child or staff member is suspected to have symptoms of Covid-19. We also have strict procedures to follow should a child or staff member be diagnosed with the Virus. These are all required now by every business and organisation in order to reopen so don't be alarmed by such policies. I want to assure you that we have trained in reopening and all that is required to ensure a safe return and continued operations.