



St. Bernadette's S.N.S.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are delighted to welcome all pupils back to St. Bernadette's SNS on Thursday 27th August. We have our School Reopening Plan in place which will be available on the website and e-mailed to parents shortly. Here is a brief synopsis of the main points. For the health and safety of our school community, the following measures have been put in place:

Third Class:

Parents may accompany third class to yard on their first day only. Third class will start at 9.30 am on the first day of term – August 27th.

Staggered Entry and Exit Times:

To comply with social distancing guidelines: Physical distancing of **2 m** is encouraged when bringing and collecting your child from school. Please do not congregate at school gates.

- Parents/Guardians are asked to “drop and go” at school entrance gates.
- All children to enter and leave building through own block door.
- **3rd and 6th** classes start at **8.50 am** and finish at **2.30 pm**.
- **4th and 5th** classes start at **9.00 am** and finish at **2.40 pm**.
- **Late-comers** cannot enter school through main door. Instead, they should enter by own block door (knock on teacher's window if door is closed).
- Yard will have new, clear markings for each class.
- Children will be taught to line up with **a 1 metre distance** from other pupils.

Changes to In-School Activity:

To comply with social distancing and health and safety guidelines:

- Pupils and teachers will be structured into class “bubbles” **staying apart** from other class “bubbles” as much as possible.
- Each class “bubble” will be divided into smaller groups – “pods” to **limit contact** and sharing as much as possible.
- Children should use their **own books, pens, pencils** etc. and as far as possible **not** share with other pupils.
- A zipped A4 poly pocket folder will be provided to each pupil, which will be labelled with their name, to keep their items together. They will leave these in school.
- Children receiving learning support will attend in a small group and chairs and surfaces will be wiped with disinfectant wipes after each group leaves.

New Enhanced Cleaning Regimes:

In line with Public Health Advice, more regular cleaning has been put in place:

- **26 sanitiser dispensers** have been installed at all school entrances and in all classrooms.
- **Warm water and soap** is available in all classrooms.
- **Posters** are displayed to remind pupils about the importance of good hand hygiene.
- Hand hygiene will be promoted and encouraged and we ask **parents' support** in reinforcing the importance of good hand hygiene. Also encourage pupils to bring in a packet of tissues.
- During break times, classroom surfaces will be cleaned with disinfectant wipes.

Collection of Pupils during the School Day:

The following arrangements will apply:

- **Phone office** or use intercom and your child will be brought to **block door** where you can collect your child.
- Office staff will sign child out.
- Your child should **not** return to school after appointments.



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- Any adult entering school building must fill in detailed **Contact Tracing Log**.
- All adults must adhere to **2 m** social distancing in school.
- Contact with Principal or staff will take place at an agreed time by **phone or email**.

Stay at home if unwell:

Do not send your child to school if:

- Your child has been **diagnosed** with Covid-19.
- Your child has been in **close contact** with someone diagnosed with Covid-19.
- Your child has a **suspected case** of Covid-19 and outcome of test is pending.
- Your child has been in contact with a person who has a suspected case of Covid-19 and outcome of test is pending.
- Your child has an **underlying health condition** and has been directed by a medical professional not to attend school.
- Your child is home **after travelling abroad** and has not self-isolated for 14 days.
- Your child is **generally unwell and displaying any of the following symptoms**:
 - High temperature 38°C +
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Loss/change to sense of smell or taste

Where there is a suspected case of Covid-19 in school:

- Pupil will be accompanied to our **isolation room in hall** maintaining a 2 metre distance.
- Parents/Guardians will be contacted immediately to collect their child from isolation room. Please ensure we have **correct contact details and alternative emergency numbers**.
- Parents/Guardians will be advised to **phone GP**.
- If pupil is too unwell, school will phone **emergency services**.
- If contact cannot be made with home, school will phone **emergency services**.

Code of Behaviour

All parents/guardians have signed up to the code of behavior during enrolment. During Covid-19 we have to amend our code to add in **“purposeful coughing, spitting or sneezing at another person in school will result in an immediate one day suspension and a three day suspension for subsequent offences”**.

Homework

To avoid cross contamination teachers will not give homework that involves bringing copies and books home and bringing them back into school the next day. Instead, homework will consist of such items as – spellings, tables, oral work, revision, and at times some on-line activity such as projects.

We want to reassure everyone we will do our very best to ensure we all have a happy, safe and healthy reopening. We look forward to your support.

Please ensure school has current phone numbers, alternate emergency numbers and email address.

Check our school website, Facebook and Twitter pages for updates:

<http://www.bernadettes.ie/>

<https://www.facebook.com/saintbernadettes>

@BernadettesSns