

St. Canice's Primary School



Phased Return Booklet 2021

March 2021



Covid 19 Symptoms

This is very important:

Do not send your child to school if your child or anyone you live with has any of the following symptoms:

- **a high temperature** - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);
- **a new, continuous cough** - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);
- **a loss of or change in sense of smell or taste.**

If your child or anyone in your household has any of the symptoms above, you should get a test for Covid-19.

Covid-19 is still in our communities and we need parents, pupils and wider society to stay vigilant to "**Keep It Out**" of our schools.

What to do if your child tests Positive for Covid

If your child tests positive for Covid either ring the school immediately or if it is out of school hours, please fill in the *Google Form* on our School Website under Latest News: Out of School Contact.

Hygiene

Regular and thorough attention to hygiene is essential to deter spread of the virus.

Children should wash their hands last thing before they leave their house in the morning.

Children should wash their hands thoroughly on arrival at school - this must be a repeatable discipline throughout the school day.

Hands should be washed thoroughly and regularly in school at existing facilities using soap and water. Tepid / lukewarm water is suitable for this purpose. Hand sanitising will be made available at all entrance / exit points. It should be noted that hand sanitising is only a support mechanism for hand hygiene and does not negate the need to wash hands. Disposable paper towels/ hand dryers are most appropriate for hand drying and use of shared / ordinary towels should be resisted. Younger children should be supervised/assisted when washing hands. But please train your child in how to wash their hands thoroughly.

Practice of good respiratory hygiene should follow the "catch it, bin it, kill it" approach. The importance of good respiratory hygiene will be discussed with and explained to children:

- Children should be discouraged from touching their eyes, face, nose and mouth, putting hands/fingers into their mouths - often unconscious actions that we all make regularly;
- They should be shown how to cough into their elbow if they don't have a tissue / paper towel;
- If they have a paper towel they should be shown how to cough into it and then dispose safely of it into the nearest bin.

Staggered drop off & pick up arrangements

We ask that all parents/ carers wear face masks while on the school premises and only one parent/ carer comes to collect your child/ren.

We will have staggered drop off and pick up times arranged alphabetically as below:

Drop off 9am and pick up 2.45pm for surnames: Biggs- McCullagh

Drop off 9.15am and pick up 3pm for surnames McElhinney- Webb

P1&2 are picked up at the usual time of 2pm.

Entrance Doors

At drop off & pick up times children will enter and exit the school by the appropriate door listed below to minimise contact between classes:

P1&2 Mrs Mullan's class use the fire escape door at the back of the classroom (through the P1/2 play area)

P3 Mrs McCann's class use the fire escape door at the back of the classroom (through the P1/2 play area). Thursday home time and Friday please use double doors at the back of the school, as for P4s.

P4 Mrs Devine's class use the double doors at the back of the school.

Mrs Diamond's class use the single door at the back of the school near the canteen

Mrs Mooney's class use the double doors at the back of the school.

We would ask that parents do not enter the school building (unless previously arranged) or congregate outside the school building to assist with social distancing and keeping our school community safe. Please remember to adhere to 2 metre social distancing for adults.

School Bags & Lunch boxes

At present we are asking that no school bags be brought to school and that lunches are brought to school in disposable packaging. This will be kept under review.

Only disposable water bottles will be allowed in school.

School Uniform

Where possible we would encourage children to come in a fresh uniform or school PE kit every day. However, we do not want parents to go to any extra expense.

Pupils must bring a coat to facilitate outdoor learning.

Stationery

Children will be provided with a stationery kit at school.

Social distancing

Strict social distancing requirements for all pupils have been relaxed but will remain in place between adults at 2m and, as far as is practicable between pupils and adults.

Protective Bubbles

As far as possible each class will be in a protective bubble:

Mrs Mullan's class P1/2 as one bubble

P3/4 Mrs McCann & Mrs Devine's as one bubble

Mrs Diamond's class as one bubble

Mrs Mooney's class as one bubble

Every child will be allocated their own space and will need to work within this space as much as possible but with the understanding that this is not possible in all cases and that play within the classroom/ outdoors may not allow social distancing. Resources will only be shared within the class.

Staggered Break time & dinnertime

There will be two break times and two dinner times to minimise contact between children - classes will play together in their own zone in the playground

Any money sent into school

Any money must be sent to school in an envelope, clearly labelled with the child's name and amount enclosed. Please send the correct amount. **Please note loose money will not be accepted.**

StopCovid NI Proximity App

The StopCOVID NI Proximity App was released in July 2020 to assist in stopping the spread of COVID-19 in Northern Ireland, by anonymously

contacting people who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. All staff and parents/ carers are encouraged to download this free application to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Pupil Attendance

Please contact the Principal if your child is in any of these categories:

Pupils Who Are Clinically Vulnerable

All schools should follow the latest guidance on attendance for children and young people who have health conditions or who live with individuals who have health conditions or are pregnant. Current guidance on these categories is published on NI Direct and by PHA. If in doubt, specific advice should be sought from a Hospital Consultant or GP.

There will be a small number of children where medical guidance would be to refrain from school. The school should satisfy themselves, through evidence provided by the family that the pupil is shielding due to underlying medical conditions. If this is not possible then an unauthorised absence should be recorded.

Pupils Who Live with Someone Who is Clinically Vulnerable

If a child or young person lives with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable as above), including those who are pregnant, they can attend their education or childcare setting. If in doubt, advice should be sought from the Hospital Consultant or GP of the clinically vulnerable person.

Pupils Who Were Shielding (clinically extremely vulnerable people)

Advice with regard to shielding eased over time and as of 1 August 2020 'shielding' has been paused. Pupil should follow the guidance of their hospital consultant or GP if in doubt about school attendance. When planning for the return of pupils, education settings should consider the distance learning and support the needs of any pupils who are unable to return to school either all or some of the time.

The most up-to-date guidance and list of underlying health conditions that necessitate shielding should be checked on the NI Direct website under the shielding section.

Pupils Who Are Living with Someone Who Was Shielding

Pupils who have household members who were considered clinically extremely vulnerable (at high risk of severe illness and requiring 'shielding'). These restrictions eased over time and from 1 August 2020 'shielding' has been paused. Such children should have an individual risk assessment conducted before the most appropriate place of care is determined.

If a child becomes symptomatic at school.

If anyone becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or high temperature/ fever or anosmia (a loss or a change in your normal sense of smell which can also affect your sense of taste) they and any members of their household within the school will be sent home and advised to follow PHA guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection. Parents will be expected to collect children from school immediately and arrange immediate testing. Please let the school know the results of testing as soon as possible.

A child awaiting collection will stay in a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door with appropriate adult supervision, or if not possible to fully isolate the child, they will be moved to an area which is at least 2m away from other people.

Cleaning:

Cleaning regimes will be rigorous, with regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces, doors handles, toilets etc. Cleaners will be on site at the end of each day.

PPE: PHA Guidance and Dept. of Education advice does not require the wearing of Personal Protection equipment (PPE) at this time by either staff or pupils, other than in cases where social distancing is compromised e.g. first aid and assistance with toileting.

Bus

It is advised face coverings should be worn on the bus but should not be worn by those who may not be able to handle them as directed (e.g. young children) as it may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission.

Hands should be washed immediately on arrival at school. Face coverings should be removed when they alight from the bus and dispose of temporary face coverings in a covered bin or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag they can take home with them and then wash their hands again.