



Coill Dubh NS

Back to school. Information for parents.

All of us here at Coill Dubh NS are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 31st of August. As you can understand some changes need to be made so that we can open safely. There is a full version of our covid plan available on the school website in the policies/downloads section if you require more information.



As always we rely on the cooperation of everyone to open the school safely. Everything is being done with the safety of the school community in mind. The best way to open the school and to keep it open is to keep Covid 19 out. To this end we have to make some changes which are difficult for us all.



As a school we have always prided ourselves on having an open door policy and being available to have a quick chat with parents in the morning or afternoon as needed. Unfortunately that will not be available anymore as parents/guardians are not allowed to enter the school grounds.

However we hope to keep lines of communication open through the use of teacher email and the learning platforms you were using with your child during lockdown.

If you have a matter which you feel needs face to face communication you must phone the office and make an appointment to speak with the principal. If at all possible do not call to the school without prior appointment. If you need to call to the school you will have to fill out a visitor form and go through a sanitisation process.

If your child forgets something or you need to deliver something to them during the school day there will be a drop box by the gate. Please phone Patricia in the office to let her know you are leaving something there and she will retrieve it and bring it to your child



School start and finish times

In order to get everyone into school safely and adhere to social distancing guidelines we will have a staggered entry and exit to school. The new times are listed below. For this to be safe, efficient and effective it is **essential** that everyone is punctual.

9:00am start 1:40pm/2:40pm finish

Ms Leacy: Junior/Senior Infants (The new Junior Infants will start at 9:30am on the first day Monday 31st August)

Ms Holton: Senior Infants/First class

Ms Linehan: Junior special class

Ms Henebry: Second class

9:20am start 3:00pm finish

Mr O'Dea: Third class

Ms Glynn: Fourth class

Ms Coyne: Fifth class

Ms Jackson/ Ms Duffy: Sixth class

Senior Special class



Getting to and from school

- If you are driving your child to school you have two options. You may use the community centre but we would ask that if your child is of age that you stay in your car. If your child is too young to walk across the car park, then you may escort them to the side gate but no further. There will be a member of staff there to guide them to their class and teacher. Otherwise you can park in the hurling club and follow the same procedure or you can park in the village and bring your child to the gate by the archway. We would ask that you follow social distancing guidelines at all times and refrain from congregating at any points.
- The children in the special classes will be collected from the side or main gate by their teacher or SNA. Teachers will be in touch to advise.
- Please do not park in the laneway as this will be used by children walking and cycling and safety is paramount.
- If you are walking then you must use the gate by the archway and leave your child at the gate where they can join their class and their teacher.
- At hometime you can make an arrangement with your child as to where you will be parked or waiting and they will join you there. Again please wait in your car and avoid congregating.
- For the younger children, from Junior Infants to Second Class, parents will be allowed to enter the yard at hometime where they must stand on the yellow dots. The teacher will send your child to you when he/she sees you. If there are no free yellow dots then please wait in the laneway until one comes free.
- Please use a social distance of 2m at all times when waiting in the lane or saying goodbye in the morning.

And now for the nice stuff!!



As we return to school after such a long time we understand that the children will all be in different places. Some will be excited, some nervous, some anxious about the new restrictions. We all feel the same! So our first month will be spent focusing on the wellbeing of the children. We'll also be doing lots of PE to shake off those months of lockdown and have fun just being together again. To that end we will be increasing the amount of PE. This will have the knock on positive effect of ensuring the children don't wear the same clothes two days running and you won't have the stress of getting them washed and dried in a night!



PE DAYS- Wear school tracksuit on these days

Monday/Wednesday/Friday- Junior Infants/ Senior Infants/
1st class/2nd class

Tuesday/ Thursday- 3rd/4th/5th/6th class



And now the best news of all! There will be no homework for the month of September! We think you as parents have done plenty of homeschooling for the time being. Going forward we hope to reduce the homework load and use the learning platforms (Seesaw, Class Dojo, Google classroom etc) We really cannot say that we will not have to close at some point and it would be great for us all to keep up our familiarity with this way of working.

We all know what we have to do now. Together we can work hard to keep everyone safe and keep the school open. We understand how difficult some of the new restrictions are but we if we all work together we can make this return to school safe and happy for the children.