

# St Farnan's Post Primary School Newsletter

13th August 2020



Parents/Guardians

A lot has changed since I issued our last newsletter. As you are aware schools are reopening at the end of August /beginning of September. The Department of Education and Skills has published guidelines to all schools to make this possible.

All schools must produce a Covid-19 response plan for the safe and sustainable reopening of post primary schools. At St Farnan's we are working hard to ensure a safe return for students and staff.

Among the measures we are taking;

- Hand sanitisers at all entry / exit doors, all classrooms, common areas, canteen, gym etc.
- The wearing of masks will be mandatory in the school.
- Dedicated entry /exit points for each year group.
- We are introducing a pod system where all year groups will be located in specific regions of the school.
- Staggered Lunch Time and new Break Time Arrangements.
- We are removing worktops, desks, lockers, filing cabinets, computers and presses or shelving in classrooms to maximise physical distance.
- There will be no access to student lockers in the short term.
- We are using all areas in the school to create extra classroom space. This will include using the gym as a classroom space.
- We are moving payments, enrolment, assessment, etc., online to reduce the need for visitors to school.
- An increased cleaning regime is being implemented to comply with DES regulations.
- We will be employing additional teachers to meet the increased demands.
- Dedicated toilet facilities for specific year groups with controlled access.
- We are implementing a visitor's log with contact tracing details.

- We are introducing an induction programme for all pupils on their return to school. This will include Covid-19 information and hygiene procedures for all students. To facilitate this, the return to school will be done on a staggered basis. Calendar included below.
- We are establishing an isolation area and an isolation procedure in the event of someone developing Covid-19 symptoms during the school day.
- We are encouraging families to invest in laptops which will allow us to deliver remote education (even in school). This will also be beneficial for completing homework etc.
- Unfortunately, there will be no canteen service in the short term and we advise that students bring packed lunches. As per normal practice junior students will not be allowed off the school premises. Senior students will but only with written permission. (email address will issue at a later date)
- We are limiting all outside visitors to the school to essential services.
- We will be moving several school events online.

### **How can Parents Help?**

We want to maintain a safe environment in our school. We want it to be a comfortable and welcoming place and we need it to be “as normal as possible”.

As a parent you can help by adhering to the following.

- While foreign travel is not recommended. If you have travelled abroad or intend to travel for any reason, you must adhere to any isolation / Quarantine requirements.
- Don't allow your child to go to school if they are showing any Covid-19 Symptoms.
- Encourage your child to follow strict hygiene rules, handwashing, sanitising and keeping social distance.
- Minimise all visits to school. Try to do business with us online. We will try to answer as promptly as possible. If your child has appointments, etc let us know by email/telephone.
- Pay school charges online (Way2Pay). A school text has already issued during the Summer and a reminder will follow.
- Purchase uniform by logging on to schoolwear.ie as mentioned in a previous newsletter.
- If you are in a position to do so, we would advise the purchase of a laptop for your son / daughter as a considerable amount of the work will be done online and sharing them in school will present a problem. If you already have a laptop they should be encouraged to bring it into school.
- Yes, we are continuing with a school uniform. A school fleece is available from our uniform supplier and is probably needed more than ever as we will be encouraging as much fresh air experience as possible.
- Masks are mandatory in school and on buses and in shops. I am advising that students bring a supply of masks, a little bottle of hand sanitizer and tissues to school on a daily basis. These can be kept in a sealable plastic bag. The school will have a supply of sanitizer in all classrooms.
- If students want to drink water, they will need their own water bottles which should be filled at home. We have to turn off water fountains for obvious reasons.
- Until we get the canteen up and running, we ask that students bring a packed lunch.
- Students will be asked to provide contact details on their return. Please ensure that we have accurate contact details including mobile phone, address and email. It is important that a parent /guardian is contactable at all times
- Cycling and walking to school should be encouraged if it is an option.

Our Covid-19 response plan for the safe and sustainable reopening of St Farnan's Post Primary School will be available on the website over the next few days.

**Return to School Calendar:**

**Once each year group has received their induction, they will be in class full time.**

Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	6 <sup>th</sup> Year Induction and Class
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year Induction and Class
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Induction and Books
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	5 <sup>th</sup> Year Induction, Books and then class TY induction
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Induction and Books

**This schedule may be subject to further revision, in light of emerging HSE advice. Please keep up to date with school website for further updates.**

I can be contacted on [principal@stfarnans.ie](mailto:principal@stfarnans.ie) for clarification.

Kind regards

Eddie Collins, Principal