**Holy Family N.S. Tubbercurry , Co. Sligo**

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Dear parents/guardians,

After many months of home-schooling we are now ready to get back to the classroom. This has been a hard time for us all. We are looking forward to getting back to school and to meeting all the children again. However, this is a very different world than in normal years. We are working hard to make our school a safe place but we need full support from parents also. Our plans will be under constant review – that means plans may change. Parents are asked to be patient and flexible. To keep us all safe we have to work together.

We are starting school slowly this year as we need to get children used to their new routines.

Junior Infants will visit the school on Tuesday August 25th. Junior Infants will then start school on Monday August 31st. Letters have been sent to all Junior Infant parents.

Children in Senior Infants, 2nd class, 4th and 5th class are coming to school on Wednesday August 26th. This is a day to get back to their class, meet their teacher, learn the new routines and breaks in school. These children will then stay at home on Thursday August 27th.

Children in 1st Class, 3rd class and 6th class will come to school on Thursday August 27th. School finishes at

All children (except Junior Infants) will be in school on Friday August 28th.

We have made these arrangements to make returning to school as safe as possible for children and staff. This means parents are asked to stay outside of the school and off the yard. This is a challenge but it is the safest way.

Notes

* Only staff and children are allowed access to the school site. Please do not attempt to bring your child in the school building. If we do not limit the number of people in the school, we risk the spread of the virus. This could result in further school closures.
* The school doors will be open from 9.10 every morning. This year children will walk straight to their classroom and sit at their table. There will be no lines on the yard. School starts at 9.20am.
* The Government have recommended walking or cycling to school where possible.
* The car park should be used for drop down only. Bring your child to the school gate and then go back to your car. Parents are asked not to stand around talking as this could risk the spread of the virus.
* Parents who walk their child to school should leave their child at the school gate.
* A text will be sent to all parents telling you your child’s teacher, what room their class will be in and their teacher’s name. Please email the school with your number if you changed your phone number.
* Our classes are now also called bubbles. This means we try to keep those children away from other classes as much as possible. The class work with their class teacher in this bubble.
* Our yard breaks have been changed to make more room for children to play safely. This means all children are not on the yard at the one time.
* Home time – Infants will be brought to the front of the school at 2pm. Parents should remain outside the gate until they see their child. Once you have collected your child you should move away quickly.
* We have a large number of children to get out of the school together. We will start letting children home from 2.50 starting with the youngest class plus their siblings.

On Wednesday 26th 2nd class will leave first/then 4th and lastly 5th.

On Thursday 27th 1st class will leave first/then 3rd and lastly 6th.

From Friday 28th 1st class will leave the school first, followed by 2nd, 3rd, 4th 5th and lastly 6th.

This will take a short while to get used to but hopefully it makes the area around the school safer.

Parents must leave once they collect their children for this to work.

Other information

Book money: We will not be collecting book money the first week back. A message will be sent home telling you how to pay. We are hoping to be able to take card payments this year.

School Lunches: Lunches will not start until the middle of September. Children should bring their own lunch to school at the start of term.

Sharing: This year there is no sharing. Children must come to school with their own pencils/pens/colours etc. Teachers will not be lending children pencils/erasers etc.

Suggestion – Children could have a home and school pencil case. They won’t need to bring pencils home each day.

Important Notes

Children are not to come to school if they are unwell. Children who come to school sick will be sent home.

If you have been on holidays outside of Ireland, in a country not on the Green List, you should reduce your movement for 14 days after return. Children should not return to school for 14 days if they have been in a country not on this list. (Further information on our school website)