

Holy Family N.S. Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo



Principal: Bernadette Ryan

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Returning to school – Attendance

Dear parents/guardians

It will soon be time for us to open the school doors and welcome your children back to school. We know you are concerned for your child's health and safety. This year is different than every other year. Because of that we all need to work together and support each other. Here are some things to remember when returning to school. Reminders of these will also be on our school website.

1. 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) If a child returns to school following a holiday abroad they will be sent home until the 14 days isolation are complete.
2. Every year we focus on improving attendance in the school. During the current pandemic we cannot focus on attendance as in other years.

If your child is sick they should not return to school

Your child should not come to school if they have:

- a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- any other common symptoms of coronavirus - a new cough, loss or changed sense of taste or smell, or shortness of breath
- been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus
- been living with someone who is unwell and may have coronavirus

Children who come to school with symptoms of CoronaVirus will be moved to an Isolation Room and their parents will be contacted to bring them home.

3. Use of face mask: Staff have been provided with visors and facemasks. At present the Guidelines do not recommend children to wear masks. However we are aware that children have been wearing masks with their parents and can continue to wear them if you wish.

If you want your child to wear a mask please consider the following:

- Children should be taught how to safely put on and take off a facemask
- Children should have a mask for the morning and a mask for the afternoon. One mask for the whole day would not be enough.
- Children will have to be able to put on and take off masks themselves.
- Children should bring a small plastic bag to put their used mask into. The masks should be brought home in the bag.

www.holyfamilytubbercurry.ie

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4. We understand that families may be worried about sending their children back to school. If for any reason you don't send your child to school we need to know if the children will be returning.
 - If your child, or a person in your house, has health issues and you are concerned about sending them to school please get your doctor to give you a certificate to explain the absence.
 - If you are worried about sending to your child back to school initially please email us to let us know – so we can keep your child's place. Children will need to have been in school during September to be considered part of our school.
5. **Hand hygiene:** Children should wash their hands before leaving home in the morning. If you have hand sanitiser at home children should put this on before leaving for school. When children come in to school they should walk to their classroom and sit on their seat. We have sanitisers in all classes. Class teachers will get the children to sanitise their hands before class starts.
6. **Our school uniform is the same as every other year.** Remember to put your child's name on their jumpers and coats. **It would be a good idea that school uniforms are only worn during school time.** Children should change out of their uniform when they get home. Wash uniforms frequently.
7. **School lunches:** This year our lunches will be provided by Carambola. Lunches will start in the middle of September. Your child will need to bring their own lunch to school at the start of the term.

It is best to send lunches in a lunch bag or wrapped in cling film.

Please label your child's drink bottle. **It is very important that children do not share drinks.**
8. **School bags:** At the start of term children will not be bringing books home. School bags will only hold lunches. Pencil cases can stay in school.
9. **Homework:** As we start back to school we are going to limit work to school time for the beginning of term. Children will be tired when they start back in to the new school routine. There will be no homework initially to stop the movement of books between home and school.
10. **Google Classrooms:** We have kept our Google Classrooms. We will be using the same gmail address you gave us during lock down. You will soon be added to the new classroom for this school year.
11. **Sharing equipment:** Children will not be sharing equipment for writing/colouring/cutting. We have plastic folders for your child. Children's equipment will be labelled and put in the plastic folder. This folder will stay in school. Your child can keep another pencil case at home with pencils and colours for homework.

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12. Break Times: We have changed our break times to have less children on the yard during breaks. We will also have air breaks in the afternoon – please make sure your child has a rain coat to wear outside.

13. Staff meeting: We are having a staff meeting on Friday September 4th to discuss how procedures are working after the first week. Children will be going home from 1230 on that day. We will send you a text, this week, telling you what time to collect your children.

Reminder: Junior Infants visit Holy Family NS on Tuesday 25th August. Junior Infants and any other new enrolments will start school on Monday August 31st

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.

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

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

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

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

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.

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. It will only work if parents collect their children on time – and leave once they collect their children.

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