

Holy Family N.S. Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo



Principal: Bernadette Ryan

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Returning to school

Dear parents/guardians

School opens for all pupils on Monday August 30th.

We look forward to meeting you all again and we hope you had a happy and safe summer. As COVID 19 remains active in our country we have to continue our procedures in place to keep everyone as safe as is possible. We appreciated all your help and support last year. This helped us keep classes open.

Ms Taheny has got a permanent position in Drimina NS and won't be joining us this year. Ms Henry is on career break and has gone teaching in Dubai. We thank them both for their work and wish them well for the year ahead.

We welcome Mr Walsh and Mr O Tiarnain to Holy Family NS. I am sure you will give them both a warm Tubbercurry welcome.

Here are some thing to remember when returning to school. Reminders of these will also be on our school website.

School opening: Our school opens for all children on Monday August 30th. All children coming to school must bring a signed Return to School form. This lets us know that you believe your child is safe to be in school.

If you travelled outside of the country please check if your child needs to isolate before returning to school.

As last year, the school building and school grounds are for staff and children only. Parents and guardians are asked to leave and collect children at the school gate. Masks must be worn on the school site. We recommend wearing masks when you collect and drop off your children.

Day 1: Your child's class teacher will be waiting at the front of the school on Monday 30th, to meet your child and collect the Return to School Form. The teacher will then take the class to their classroom.

5th and 6th classes (and siblings) arrive at 8.55 am

3rd and 4th classes (and siblings) arrive at 9.00 am

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1st and 2nd Classes (and siblings) arrive at 9.05 am

Senior Infants 9.10

Our new Junior Infants will start arriving at 9.20 on Monday.

School Opening and Closing Times

We hope to limit large groups of children gathering together in the morning. Last year a lot of children were on site from 9.00 am. **Starting on Tuesday**, teachers will be in their class from 9.00 am. Children will be able to go to class from 9.00 and work will start from 9.10.

Home time will be earlier because of the earlier start. Infants will go home at 145/150

1st and 2nd classes (and their siblings) will start leaving the school at 2.40.

3rd and 4th classes (and their siblings) will start leaving at 2.45

5th and 6th classes will leave at 2.50

Parents should wait outside the gate for their children.

School Books: School books can be purchased through the school office. Payment can be made by card (over the phone or in person) or cash. Our secretary, Eilise, will answer any questions you have about book orders.

Please note we will not be accepting book money on the first day of school.

School Lunches: Our school is part of the School Lunch Scheme. Last year we did a survey of pupils and teachers about the hot lunches. The majority of families preferred cold lunches. This year we will be having Cold lunches (sandwiches/wraps/fruit). Further information will be sent home next week.

School lunches start on Monday September 13th.

For the first two weeks of school parents will need to send a packed lunch and drink with their child.

We encourage healthy eating in our school. Treats/chocolates/bars/sugar drinks are for home only.

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COVID 19

Primary school children are not required to wear masks. However, if a parent wants their child to wear masks that is ok. **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.

Children should wash their hands and sanitise before leaving home.

We have sanitisers throughout the school. Children will sanitise their hands before they start work, before they eat, after break and before they go home.

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, fatigue, headaches, sore throat, runny/stuffy nose
- feeling unwell with vomiting and/or diarrhoea
- 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.

Travel Abroad: If you have travelled abroad over the summer please check the government website for details on isolation

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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.

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.

Car Park: The BOM applied and received a grant from CLAR for the upgrade of our school carpark. Using this funding we were able to put tarmac on some of the car park. We are very thankful for this funding. There is still work to do but we are delighted to have this work done.

Please use the car park carefully. Drive slowly and follow the arrows.

Remember children are small and we would hate to have an accident in the car park

When you have dropped your child to school you should leave the car park.

Email, Home Address and Phone Numbers

If you have changed address, changed your email or changed your mobile number please let Eilise know. We need contacts for sending emails and texts.

Uniforms

School uniforms should be worn every day. School tracksuits should be worn on Fridays. Please label your child's clothing.

Wearing uniforms is part of our school Code of Behaviour.

We look forward to seeing you all soon

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