



# St Mary's Boys National School

*Scoil Mhuire S.N.B. Baile an Bhóthair*

## St Mary's Boys' National School

### Returning to School for all Classes 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear parent /guardian,

We hope you have all had a safe and restful Easter break. We are all looking forward to welcoming back all the children on Monday April 12<sup>th</sup>.

We thank you sincerely for helping us re-open our school safely in March and facilitating a safe return to school for all students and staff.

We all play a part in keeping our school safe and open between now and the end of June. To ensure the health and safety of all our students, staff and school community can we please ask you to read the following information carefully and adhere to the guidelines given.

#### **Staggered Drop Offs**

All children from Junior Infants to Sixth class will return to school on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April and classes will operate within a bubble and pod systems in exactly the same way as they did before Easter. This means that classes do not interact with another class grouping. From Third to Sixth Class, within these class bubbles, the children are split into pods (as they have been seen September). Children cannot interact with anyone from another pod.

The protocols and staggered drop off and collection times will still be in effect as they have been since September. This is to avoid too many people congregating in any one area at any given time. It will also allow the children to settle back in more easily as their school routine will not change. As always hand sanitiser will be available at all entry points and in all class and support rooms. Classroom windows will be kept open in order to provide for ventilation.

#### **"Hug and Go" at School Gate.**

- Each group should aim to arrive at the school about 10 minutes immediately preceding their start time  
**Group A - 8:40 - 8:50**  
**Group B - 8:55 - 9:05**
- We ask for co-operation with these times as it will mean that the numbers congregating on school grounds at any one time will be minimised.
- Children will unfortunately not be able to play in the school yard prior to the school day. Parents of **all pupils** will drop their pupils at the school gate from where there is a 'Hug and Go' policy. The pupils will proceed straight to their classrooms. The class teachers will be in classrooms to accept their pupils. Teachers will be at the gate and on the yard to usher the children to their classrooms.

**Groups have been split as follows:**

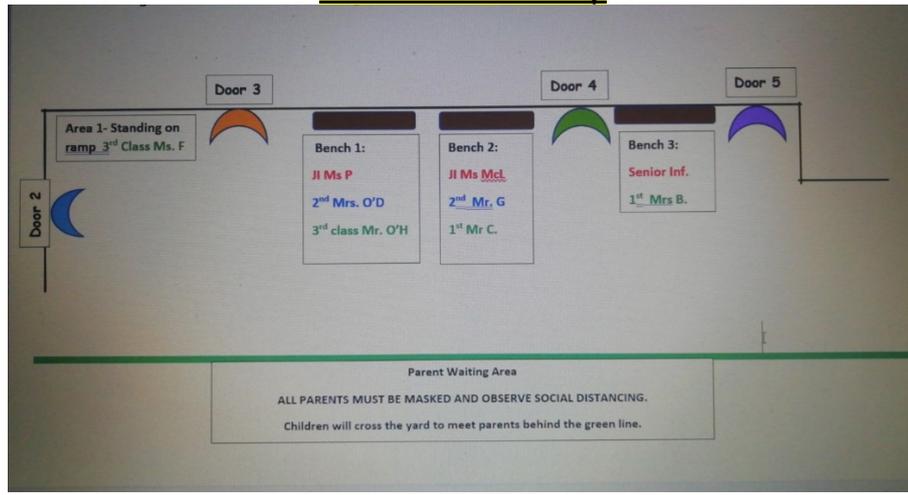
Classes in Group A	Classes in Group B
JI - Ms. McLoughlin JI - Ms. Phillips SI - Ms. Doyle 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Ms. O'Dea 2 <sup>nd</sup> - Mr. Gilheaney 4th - Ms Cartwright 4th - Mr. De Paor 6th - Ms Callanan	1 <sup>st</sup> - Mr. Cregan 1 <sup>st</sup> - Mrs. Ballance 3rd. - Mr. O' Hanrahan 3rd. - Ms. Forde 5th—Mr Stafford 5th - Mr. Burke

- **ALL ADULTS MUST REMAIN SOCIALLY DISTANCED AND WEAR A MASK ON SCHOOL GROUNDS AT ALL TIMES.PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE SCHOOL GROUNDS IF YOU ARE UNMASKED.**
- No adults, other than staff members, should enter the school grounds or school building.
- Messages for teachers can be sent by email to [office@stmarysbooterstown.ie](mailto:office@stmarysbooterstown.ie) or by phoning the school office at 01 2886830.
- If classes are located upstairs, pupils will ascend and descend stairs supervised by teachers and follow the 'Keep left' rule.

**End of School Day**

- **ALL ADULTS MUST REMAIN SOCIALLY DISTANCED AND WEAR A MASK ON SCHOOL GROUNDS AT ALL TIMES.PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE SCHOOL GROUNDS IF YOU ARE UNMASKED.**
- Adults, who are collecting their children from school at the end of the day, **please** wait behind the green line that marks the cycle lane that runs alongside the shrubbery. The class teacher will bring the children to their designated entrance/exit point and seat them on their collection bench. The class teacher will release the children into the care of the adult who is there to collect them. The children will walk across the yard to meet the adult and exit the school grounds immediately.
- **Some children in 3<sup>rd</sup> class to 6<sup>th</sup> class have previously organised to meet their parent/guardian; outside the school gates, at the corner halfway down the lane or outside Booterstown Parish Youth Club Hall. This arrangement has really helped to decrease the number of adults on the school grounds and ensure a smoother flow of people from the school grounds. Please feel free, at your own discretion, to continue this arrangement with your child.**
- Children who go home independently should exit the school grounds as quickly as possible and not congregate.
- **All adults please remain behind the green cycle lane line at all times.**
- To minimise numbers, please limit the numbers of people collecting a child to 1.
- Access to the school front garden or adventure area is not allowed.
- By now, all adults will be familiar with the door your child leaves from and the bench they sit on while waiting for collection.
- **Please wait behind the green line in a position that is opposite where your child will exit the building.** This is to avoid too many people congregating in a bottleneck area at the entrance to the yard.
- We ask that parents and pupils disperse and depart the school grounds as promptly as possible as we have a '**Collect and Go**' policy.

## Collection Point Map



## One Way System

We have a one-way system in operation at collection time. Adults are asked to **enter the yard on the right-hand side by following the green line**. We remind all adults to stay being this line at all times. When you have collected your child and you are **exiting the yard please leave via the exit gate (This is the side closest to the school building)**. Staff member will be on duty to ensure this is adhered to in order to keep everyone as safe as possible.

## Symptoms

Families are asked to follow all government protocols at all times. If you suspect that **your child or any member of your household** has symptoms of Covid-19 **please keep your child at home** unless your GP has advised that it is safe for your child to return to school.

## Children and Masks

Children under the age of 13 are not currently been required by government guidelines to wear a face mask. However, many children within our school wear a mask on a daily basis and if you wish, you may get your son to wear one.

## Indoor Voices

All classes will be using 'indoor voices' at all times when doing any lessons or activities. This will mean that singing/use of loud voices for poetry etc will be avoided as much as possible within the classroom setting. Activities such as this will take place outside when pupils are socially distanced. This is in order to reduce the amount of water vapor being released into the atmosphere when the children are in the classroom.

## Bicycles and Scooters

We ask that **no bicycles and scooters** are brought to school until further notice. This is to avoid children from different bubbles congregating together at the bike/scooter bay.

## Sharing

Please remind your children not to bring in any of their own toys or games to school and not to share any equipment or food, birthday cakes, homemade baking etc.

### **Split break groups and times**

- The school is split into 2 groups with each group having different starting times, break times, lunch times and finishing times.
- The day will include 2 x 20minute breaks.
- Each class has a designated play area which they must remain in, with their bubble, during yard time.

<b>Little Break Timetable</b>	<b>Big Break Timetable</b>
Group A Small Break: 10:10- 10:30	Group A Big Break: 12:00 - 12:20
Group B Small Break: 10:40 - 11:00	Group B Big Break: 12:30-12:50

### **Lining Up After Yard Time**

All children line up in their pods once the bell rings after playtime. These pods are all separated and are clearly marked on the ground with a **white heart shape** for children in the junior end of the school and a **white star** for children from third class upwards. The children then enter the building while remaining in their pods at all times.

### **Homework Policy and Transfer of Materials between the Home and the School**

- Please ensure all textbooks and copies are covered with plastic wipeable covers so that they can be regularly sanitised both at home and in school.
- Oxford Reading Tree books will be sent home on Monday (if applicable to your son's class) and **MUST** be returned on a Friday, wiped down and kept in a box over the weekend.

### **School Based Equipment**

- Each child must continue to have a separate pencil case for school and home
- Coats and jackets to be hung on the backs of pupils' chairs.

### **Pupil Hand washing/sanitizing**

- Pupils to sanitize hands when entering the school building each morning
- Pupils to wash hands after using the toilet
- Pupils to wash hands before eating
- Pupils sanitize after returning from the yard/PE, wash if necessary on return to classroom
- Hand sanitisers kept in classrooms for pupils' use during the day
- Pupils sanitize hands on leaving the school building at home time

### **Uniform Policy**

- Children will continue to wear formal school uniform and tracksuits on alternate days so that the uniforms themselves do not become a carrier of the virus. These days were allocated to your child in September.
- It is hoped that children will change from their uniforms promptly upon arrival at home so that they can avoid cross contamination with other settings such as shops, friends' homes or group play after school.

### Collection of Children during the School Day

If an adult has to collect a child during the course of the school day, the following arrangements will apply:

- When the adult arrives at the school, they should either phone the office or use the intercom at the front door of the school to alert the office that they have arrived.
- Please wait outside the school main door.
- The child will be collected from their class by a secretary, maintaining a safe distance
- The adult who is collecting will be asked to sign the child out

### Play Dates/Parties

Can we please ask that the boys do not organise any play dates or parties for the time being and avoid meeting in clusters outside of school or the local parks.

### Return to School Declaration

You will receive a return to school declaration form via Aladdin Connect which asks you to declare that your child can safely return to school and has no Covid-19 symptoms. This must be filled in after 3pm on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April for children returning to school.

As previously stated it is vital that parents are vigilant about not sending their child to school if the child or a member of the household is suspected of symptoms of Covid-19. If we work together and err on the side of caution when it is suspected that someone in the household may be ill, then we will increase our chances of keeping St. Mary's a Covid-19 free school.

