



Parteen National School

Parteen

Co. Clare

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Principal: Gerard Ruane

Deputy Principal: Mairéad Guckian

### School Community Newsletter

20/8/2020

#### Response Plan

As you are aware by now, we created a draft reopening plan in June. We consulted with staff and the Parents Association and published it at the end of June so that we could officially close giving you all confidence that we had plans in place for a safe reopening. At the end of July, the DES published the long awaited guidelines and since then we have been updating our 'June Plan' and making further arrangements. We consulted with all staff and the full Parents Association. All feedback was gathered in writing and the BOM considered the DES Guidelines and all feedback. It will be reviewed again on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Please read the document in full:

<https://parteenschool.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Response-Plan-for-Reopening-Parteen-N.S.-17-8-2020.pdf>

We would like to sincerely thank all staff and the Parents Association for their positive engagement, all staff for making adjustments to their rooms, Liam and Catherine who have been busy with local arrangements and Ms. O' Rourke, in her capacity as Health and Safety Officer, who is playing a key role in making arrangements for reopening our school. Thank you to the BOM for their careful consideration and decision making.

Please take particular note of the following:

Drop off and collection times

Infant collection outside on wet days

No adults on yard

No entry to the school – prearranged appointments only

Plastic coverings on books

Requirement to sanitise lunch boxes and drink containers

Symptoms of Covid-19

Uniform details

Hand hygiene

Respiratory hygiene

School supplies requirements

Money collection

School uniform arrangements

### **Twitter**

Ms. O' Rourke will be creating videos of the new arrangements in the school so children can see any changes before they come back.

### **School Culture**

You will note that we are trying to keep everything as normal as possible for children. We will use the term 'group' instead of 'pod', 'class' instead of 'bubble', children will still use the playground, have their breaks (extra in fact!). The contents of our reopening document focus on Health and Safety arrangements. Please note that we also want to maintain a happy, fun atmosphere in the school and we will work hard to do this.

### **Junior and Senior Infants**

Please note that one parent/ guardian of junior infants, and senior infants if necessary, will still be allowed to escort their children onto yard to wait for their teacher as normal. The adult must maintain social distancing and wear a facemask.

### **Junior Infants**

We are reopening on August 31<sup>st</sup> from 9-10.30am for Junior Infants only. This is to give families space to enjoy the special day and let the children meet each other, their teacher and see their class. Please note the following:

View the video from the junior infant teachers on Twitter in advance. This was also emailed to you.

Gather in the yard – two adults with each child. You can spend time taking photos.

We will call you to bring your child in and settle them in the room. Please wait until you are called. The children will be brought out to the yard by the teacher at 10.30am for collection.

On Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, you will get an email from the teacher. It will contain a contact tracing log, Covid Questionnaire and school protocol for entering the building. You must complete and return the first two documents mentioned in relation to the two adults coming and email it to [parteenoffice@gmail.com](mailto:parteenoffice@gmail.com) by Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>.

The adults must wear facemasks but given you will be finding your own space for photos outside, you can take them off for the pictures.

Junior Infants will finish at 12 noon up until Friday September 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Communion, Confirmation, Graduation.**

Current Confirmation and Graduation arrangements are available here:

<https://parteenschool.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Confirmation-Letter-4-8-2020.pdf>.

We are working out the details of Communion but it is expected it will be similar to the Confirmation arrangements.

**At the time of writing, we have no official guidance on how the restrictions announced yesterday will affect the above events.**

Kind regards,

Ger and Mairéad