|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |

 24 February 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your commitment and efforts with remote learning. Finally, we are back to education in person. We are looking forward to welcoming all children back to the INFANT SCHOOL on **Monday 1 March 2021.**

We will continue with our rigorous safety measures in and around the school: sanitising throughout the school day, lessons in respiratory and hand hygiene, class bubbles, staff masking, social distancing and cleaning. Every school is adhering strictly to the Covid-19 Response Plan.

After careful consideration, we have adjusted the drop-off and pick-up times to further reduce congregating in the yard in the morning and afternoon. Note the change in times below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class group** | **Drop- off time**  | **Collection time** | **Note** |
| **Early Start** | **Usual time** | **Usual time** | Parents please keep clear of the doors. |
| **Junior Infants**  | **9.00**  | **1.30**  | Children must stand on their spot in the line.  |
| **Senior Infants**  | **9.10**  | **1.40**  | Note change of times  |
| **First Class** | **9.05** | **1.45** | Note change of times First Class children may be dropped right up to their line and parents may leave. |

Public health and the Department of Education have requested all schools to put every measure in place to avoid huddles or crowds on the school grounds or at the school gates. The strain of Covid circulating is very transmissible and the level in our local community is still high. We need cooperation of all parents to keep our school grounds safe!

All staff members will be maintaining the 2m distance, for safety.

Children must stand on their line markers in the morning.

Family groups must stand apart from each other.

At home time, please stand behind the line and the teacher will send your child over to you.

Please exit immediately, keeping right on the path.

Please arrive in time, not too early and not late!

Any messages for teachers can be done through Dojo or phone call.

The Board of Management has requested that ALL ADULTS AND TEENAGERS wear a mask on our school grounds. Any parent who is unable to wear a mask for any reason may call the office and we will discuss an alternative safe arrangement for the drop-off and collection of your child.

Please ensure that you complete and return the enclosed **Return to Educational Facility Parental Declaration Form** in your child’s school bag on Monday 1 March 2021. This is required for all children returning to school. Alternatively you may send it to the class teacher’s email address.

**Children who should not attend school**

If your child is in one of the following categories, they should not attend school –

* **Children who are generally unwell in any way**
* Children who have been diagnosed with Covid-19
* Children who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19 or who has symptoms consistent with the virus
* Children who have a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
* Children who have been in contact with a person who has a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
* Children with **serious** underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school (Doctor or consultant note required)
* Children who have returned home after travelling abroad and must self-isolate for a period of 14 days and follow any other government advice on foreign travel

**We will be sending home children who have any symptoms immediately in line with our Covid-19 Response Plan. We need THREE up-to-date phone numbers for all families.**

We want to keep our children, our staff, and our local community safe. We need every family to support our safety measures fully. Thank you for your cooperation.

Kind regards

Margaret O’Reilly and staff of St Brigid’s Infant School