

Your Child or Household Members Displaying Symptoms of Covid-19

If your child, or anyone in your household, is displaying symptoms of Covid-19, please do not send them to school.

23rd February 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of 2nd Class Children,

The Board of Management and School Staff are looking forward to welcoming our 2nd Class pupils back to school on Monday next, 1st March.

I can assure you that we have control measures in place and we will be doing all that we can to ensure that the return to school is a safe and enjoyable experience for your children.

Sending sick children to school

The following message is the most important I can give: **If your child, or anyone in your household, is displaying symptoms of Covid-19, please do not send your child to school. If your child or anyone in your household is displaying any cold, cough or flu-like symptoms whatsoever, it is absolutely vital that you keep your child home from school.** I cannot stress this enough. This is the number one thing we can do to keep the virus out of schools and, by extension, out of our wider community. Parents/guardians have perhaps the most important role in keeping the virus out of schools.

See here for symptoms <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/symptoms.html>

Classrooms

For the period 1st -12th March, school management have decided to place the three 2nd Classes in rooms at the far end of the school, down at the 'basketball court' end of the school.

Morning arrival

Arrive between 9:00-9:10 am. Enter via the Big Sliding Gate at the basketball yard (this is just a bit further down Chapel Lane. From here, children go straight to their classroom.

Miss Golden's Class: Enter the yard and go straight ahead, up the stairs onto the platform and enter the class directly from here.

Miss Ryan's Class: Enter the yard and go straight ahead, up the ramp, onto the platform and around to enter the class directly from here.

Miss O' Sullivan's Class: Enter the yard and go straight ahead, to the bus yard door (where the children park their bicycles).

There will be staff on hand to direct the children.

Break-times

We may give the children slightly lengthier break-times, to ease their transition back to the classroom and to aid their socialisation.

Home-time

2:50 pm. All children will exit via the Big Sliding Gate at the basketball yard.

Parents waiting on Chapel Lane

Please avoid any congregation of crowds on Chapel Lane.

I would encourage you to do the following:

- If you are parked on Chapel Lane, stay in your car.

- If you must wait along Chapel Lane, please adhere to social distancing guidelines and maintain a 2m distance from others as you wait. There are markings on the wall to indicate 2m.
- Wait a little away from the main gate, where the crowd may be less. Arrange a spot to meet your child, away from the immediate environs of the school: for example, the boardwalk, the park, the library, the Riverbank, in front of the church, the church garden, the small pitch gate.
- Please consider wearing a mask as you pick up/drop off your child.

If you are driving your child to school, consider a 'park and stride' option, parking away from the school and finishing the journey on foot.

Visitors to the school

As with all schools, we are trying to minimise visitors to the school. As you can appreciate, this makes the school safer for all. If you do need to come in to the school, please phone the school office on 045-432174 to make an appointment.

Isolation room

In the event that a child is displaying symptoms of Covid-19 in school, the child will be removed to an isolation area within the school. The child's parents/guardians will then be contacted and asked to come to the school to collect the child as soon as possible. We are aware that, should it occur, such an incident may cause shock, worry and some level of panic in parents. However, we will need parents to act with a degree of urgency and to collect their child as soon as is possible. If parents/guardians cannot collect their child and we have to call the emergency contact, we will make it clear to this contact that the child is displaying Covid-19 symptoms. Obviously, some people may not be comfortable with this. Therefore, if it is at all humanly possible, parents/guardians are to collect their child themselves.

Hand-washing

It would help us greatly if you could re-inforce with your child the correct handwashing and sanitising technique, not just a 'splash and dash'.

One very simple thing would be to remind your child to pull up their sleeves when they go to wash their hands. Very simple, but it needs reminding. Humming 'Happy Birthday' twice should amount to the correct time needed for correct handwashing. (If you don't know the words of 'Happy Birthday, please contact the school office

We would ask that your child cleans their hands last thing in the morning before they leave home for school. Also, when they return home, they should wash their hands first thing.

See the HSE website here <https://www2.hse.ie/wellbeing/how-to-wash-your-hands.html>

Masks

Whilst the Department of Education are not recommending that primary school children wear masks, if you wish your child to wear a mask that will be fine.

I have full confidence that your child will be as safe, if not safer, in Patrician Primary School as in any other school in the country. I say this knowing that we have had massive support from the parent body to date and it is this support that has given me this confidence. With your help, we'll get your children back to school on March 1st and we'll hope that they can stay here until June.

Now, I'm off to my dental appointment in Tenerife

Yours sincerely,
John O' Donovan,
Principal

Please see here for more information

<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/5572b-back-to-school-advice-for-parents-students-and-families/>