



26th of February 2021

RE: Phased Return of In School Provision

Dear Parents / Guardians, Staff Member and pupils,

We are delighted to be welcoming back all our pupils from Junior Infant to 2nd Class and Ms Healy's 3rd Class on Monday 1st of March. I would like to draw your attention to some very important reminders in advance of the return:

- We will continue with the staggered arrivals and drop-offs. The Arrival/Dismissal plan is included at the end of this letter.
- **All Parents are to fill the Return to Education Form on the Aladdin app, before they return to school.** Please contact the office if you need any guidance on this. This function will be available from 3pm Sunday (the day before any absence/school closure)
- **Please do not congregate at or near the school grounds at any time.**
- **Masks must be worn at all time by parents dropping off or collecting children from school.**
- **Ventilation:** Please note we will be taking measures to increase ventilation as an additional safety measure. We are advising the children to wear extra layers during the colder temperatures.
- Our Covid response plan and updated response plan are available on the school's website (duleekgns.ie). This contains important information on what happens if your child displays symptoms of COVID-19.
- Please do not send your children to school if they are close contacts of a person with COVID-19, are awaiting a test or are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. A reminder of the symptoms is included at the end of this letter. *As a rule of thumb, please think along the lines of 'COVID until proven otherwise'.* We will always be erring on the side of caution when a suspected case arises in school. Thank you in advance for your understanding on this very important safety measure.
- Please do not send your children to school if they are identified by the HSE as a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 or if they live with someone who has symptoms of the virus
- Please do not send your pupils to school if they have travelled outside of Ireland: in such instances please consult and follow the latest Government advice in relation to foreign travel.
- Please cooperate with any public health officials and the school for contact tracing purposes and follow any public health advice in the event of a case or outbreak in the school



- For more information please click this link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/5572b-back-to-school-advice-for-parents-students-and-families/>

We can appreciate that many members of the school community are anxious about the return to school. We are doing everything we can to make this return both safe and positive for everyone. Our focus for the first few weeks will be on wellbeing and getting the children settled, happy and ready for learning. We thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Pádraig McGovern'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Mr McGovern

Drop-off Plan

From **8.50am to 9.00am we will be receiving our walkers, cyclists and those who arrive by car.** From **9.00 to 9.20am we will be receiving all pupils who avail of private bus companies and those on Bus Eireann services.** These times have been shared with the bus companies. It is very important that everyone sticks to these arrival times to ensure the safe arrival of all our pupils. Pupils are asked to go straight to their classes in the morning where there will be supervision in place. Classes will start at 9.20am, as normal.

Collection Plan

In a similar way, the dispersal of students will be staggered. For Junior and Senior infant pupils, all those who get the bus will leave first at 1.55pm All those being collected will be brought to the parent collection points at 2.00pm. Pupils that finish at three who get the bus will leave class at 2.55pm and the buses will leave the school grounds promptly at 3.00pm. All other pupils will then leave school, and we ask that no cars enter the school premises until this time (or when all buses have left). Again, it is very important that everyone sticks to these dispersal times for the safety of all our school community.

Symptoms of Covid-19

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 it is important to know and recognise the symptoms. They are:

- High temperature
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste



Infection with the virus that causes COVID-19 can cause illness, ranging from mild to severe, and, in some cases, can be fatal. It can take up to 14 days for symptoms to show. They can be similar to symptoms of cold and flu.

Common symptoms of coronavirus include:

- a fever (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above).
- a new cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry.
- shortness of breath or breathing difficulties.
- loss or change in your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you have any common symptoms of COVID-19 (coronavirus), self-isolate (stay in your room) and phone your family doctor straight away to see if you need a COVID-19 test.

Other people in your household will need to restrict their movements (stay at home). Getting an early diagnosis means, you can get the help you need and take steps to avoid spreading the virus, if you have it.

Please do not send your child to school if they are close contacts of a person with Covid 19, are awaiting a test or are experiencing symptoms of Covid19. Section 8 of our school's updated Covid Response Plan outlines how the school deals with a suspected case within the school setting. This updated policy will be available in the Policies section of our school website duleekgns.ie

