



Creagh National School

Creagh,
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Co. Galway.

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Chairperson: Mr. Frank Gallagher
Acting Principal: Mr. Noel Lohan

Thursday, August 14th 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian, Staff Member,

RE: Physical Distancing and Safe School Attendance for Return to School in Creagh N.S.

As demonstrated by our [Response to Covid -19 Plan](#), we are currently working on upgrading our procedures and routines within the school to ensure that there is as much Physical Distancing as is possible in our building. We will apply physical distancing in a practical and sensible way, recognising that the learning environment cannot be dominated by a potentially counterproductive focus on this issue and complying fully with the [DES Roadmap for the Full Return to School](#) and all of the supporting documents that accompany it. (All available on our [school website](#))

Physical Distancing will be achieved in two ways: -

Increasing Separation. This will be achieved by re-configuring the classrooms to maximise physical distancing as informed by [guidelines issued by the DES](#). Each class will be referred to as a bubble and we will ensure that there is as little contact as possible between children in different bubbles/classes. Within some of these bubbles/classes, children will be organised into pods. A pod is a group of children (normally 6) who will sit together and who will stay in their pod while in the bubble, or classroom.

Decreasing Interaction. This will be achieved by decreasing the potential for children from different bubbles/classes to interact. There will be specific/ marked routes and areas for each bubble/class to enter and exit the school and to access their classrooms. Each bubble/class will be allocated specific play areas. Bubbles/ classes will have specific mid-morning and lunch-time access to their designated areas in the playground. We will make these routines enjoyable activities for the children, emphasising safety at all times. *(Further details available on page. 10 and pages 17-21 of our [Covid Response Plan](#))*

While all children will be welcome back to school, we would remind parents that, where children are displaying colds, coughs or flu like symptoms, they should not be sent to school. Children who display such symptoms in school will be isolated and parents asked to collect them from the school. For procedures see page 28-page 30 of [the Covid Response Plan](#))

Children who have travelled from countries not on the Green List should not attend school during the 14-day self-isolation period

Further information on COVID-19 symptoms in children is available at: -

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/if-your-child-has-symptoms.html>

Teachers will make children aware of the proper hygiene procedures regarding hand washing and etiquette related to sneezing, coughing or spitting. **We would be grateful if you could also emphasise safe behaviour in this regard to your children at home as part of the preparation for returning to school.** Our aim remains to re-open the school in an orderly safe manner, while reassuring the children and making them feel comfortable, safe and relaxed with their friends in the new school environment. This will be achieved by all of us working towards this common goal.

As explained previously, we will have an **induction day on Monday 31st of August** to introduce the pupils to our new routines. The timetable and guidelines for this induction are included below. **The new initial school opening times will apply from Tuesday 1st September. (Jun Infants: 9:40am – 12:20 pm (First 2 weeks) Sen Infants: 9:40- 2:20; 1st – 6th class: 9:20 am – 3:00pm.)** This will be reviewed and adapted as necessary. **We hope to revert to a common entry time as soon as practicable.**

With Thanks:

Mr Frank Gallagher; Chairman of the Board of Management

Mr Noel Lohan; School Principal

Mrs. Áine Bleahene; Covid Response Co-ordinator

Timetable for Induction Day: 31st August 2020

Teacher	Class	Time of Arrival	Time of Collection	Gate
Ms Lohan/ Ms Barrett	Junior Infants	10:30 am	11:15 am	Gate D (Church Gate)
Ms Carty	Junior Infants	10:30 am	11:15 am	Gate D (Church Gate)
Ms Curtin	Senior Infants	10:30 am	11:15 am	Gate A (Nearest Pitch)
Ms Dolan	Senior Infants	10:30 am	11:15 am	Gate A (Nearest Pitch)
Ms Carey	First Class	9:20 am	10:15 am	Gate A (Nearest Pitch)
Ms. Jennings/ Ms Connaughton	First Class	9:20 am	10:15 am	Gate A (Nearest Pitch)
Ms. Gallagher	Second Class	9:20 am	10:15 am	Gate B (At Pedestrian crossing)
Ms Fox	Second Class	9:20 am	10:15 am	Gate B (At Pedestrian crossing)
Mrs Gallagher	Third Class	11:30 am	12:15 pm	Gate B (At Pedestrian crossing)
Miss Power	Third Class	11:30 am	12:15 pm	Gate A (Nearest Pitch)
Miss Blade	Fourth Class	11:30 am	12:15 pm	Gate D (Church Gate)
Mrs Barrett	Fourth Class	11:30 am	12:15 pm	Gate D (Church Gate)
Ms Conway/ Ms Cahalan	Fifth Class	1:00 pm	1:45 pm	Gate A (Nearest Pitch)
Mr Dolan	Fifth Class	1:00 pm	1:45 pm	Gate A (Nearest Pitch)
Mr Geraghty	Sixth Class	1:00 pm	1:45 pm	Gate C (Right of Basketball Court)
Mr Ronaldson	Sixth Class	1:00 pm	1:45 pm	Gate C (Right of Basketball Court)

We look forward to meeting up with the children on Monday the 31st and really appreciate your co-operation and assistance in making this new transition as smooth as possible. The following are some of the procedures that will allow us to successfully introduce your child to their new routines.

- Stewards will be available to direct children to their correct gates and reception areas.
- One parent/guardian may accompany younger children (Infants- 1st) to the reception areas.
- Physical distancing rules will apply. (1 m for children from 3rd class upwards, 2 m for adults)
- **Parents/ Guardians should wear face coverings on school grounds to help normalise the fact that adults in the school will be wearing face coverings at distances less than 2m. Parents will not be permitted access to the school building.**
- Older children should bring in **some of their text books** on this day so they can be left in the school.
- Parents/guardians of younger children (Infants – 1st) can **bring all the children's books to the reception area**. They will be collected and left in school. These need to be carefully labelled.
- **Parents/guardians should avoid waiting on the school premises or congregating at the school grounds.**
- Younger children (Infants – 1st) can be collected at the designated time in the allocated reception area. (2 m. physical distancing rules apply)
- Older children should make their own way off the school premises. Stewards will be available to guide them through the designated routes.
- It would be a good idea to agree a meeting point with older children.
- The new school opening times will apply from Tuesday 1st September. (*Jun Infants: 9:40am – 12:20 pm, Sen Infants: 9:40- 2:20; 1st – 6th class: 9:20 am – 3:00pm.*)

Please contact the school if you have any queries/ difficulties with these arrangements. (Tel. 090 9642634; E-Mail: principal.creaghns@gmail.com)

Sincere thanks for your co-operation in this matter.
The staff of Creagh National School.