



Newsletter 1: August 2020



Welcome to 'The New Normal' at CBS Primary!

Dear Parents / Guardians,

The school has been a hive of activity since early August as we prepare for the reopening of CBS Primary. Ms. Ní Dhuinnín has been appointed as Lead Worker Representative and assumes role of Covid-19 Officer in our school. The school has been extensively cleaned by a hard working team of individuals, led by Ms. Zinkant (Deputy Lead Worker Representative) and Ms. Flavin (Deputy Lead Worker Representative), who I would have been lost without. Some minor refurbishments are also being completed by local trades people.

Our main aim is to prevent the risk of infection coming into school and we cannot do this without your help! Please read carefully through this newsletter and talk to your son about the contents.

I am aware that some of our boys are very anxious about returning to school. Please be assured that we will help to make the transition back into the school as smooth as possible. The first two - four weeks of the school term will be spent getting the boys reconnected with the school and their friends! There will be no homework assigned initially. There will be a major emphasis on Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) with a particular focus on student well being.

We have a FANTASTIC school community here in Charleville. Our parents and guardians have always been so supportive of our school and I am now asking for your continued support as we enter this school year.

I am looking forward to welcoming back all our boys in the next week.

Kind Regards

Michael O' Sullivan

Principal



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! IMPORTANT: PROTECT OUR SCHOOL! PROTECT OUR BOYS! !

Do not bring your child to school if they are displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 which as per the HSE guidance include:

- a fever (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above)
- a cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry
- shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

If you are in any doubt whether you should send your child to school or not, please err on the side of caution. Please be aware that we will request you to collect your child without delay if any of the above symptoms are evident.

CBS Primary to become two schools!

CBS Primary will be divided into two separate schools. Each school will have a different opening and closing time. Each school will also have different break and lunch times. Approximately 100 boys will be in each school. The boys in each school will not mix and there will be minimal contact between staff in School 1 and School 2.

School 1 is located in the main building (red brick structure) while School 2 consists of the cluster of temporary buildings located in the playground.

Full details will be sent in a separate PDF document. Please study this document very carefully and please adhere to the times as set out for your son's class.

Drop off

Please do not drop off boys before their assigned drop off time. They will not be permitted to enter the site. When the boys are dropped off they must go straight to their classroom. The boys must not, under any circumstance, mix with other boys in the yard. Please drop and go and allow the traffic to keep moving in the set down area.

Boys who walk to school are to enter through the Pedestrian Walkway. Once boys enter the walkway they are not to turn around as the walkway is operating as a one way system.



Collection

School Collection Time was identified as the most significant hazard in our COVID-19 Risk Assessment. Approximately 350 children, parents and staff normally come together at collection time. This can no longer happen. We have a duty of care to protect our pupils, staff and school community.

Please adhere strictly to your son's collection time as stated in the attached PDF (exceptions made for siblings only). We will have four collection times so please ensure to leave the area once your son is safely in the car.

There are three exits from the school campus. All boys must exit through their assigned exit.

Gate 1: This is the first gate in our set down area. It is located beside the flagpoles and is directly outside our school building.

Gate 2: This gate is located immediately outside CBS Secondary.

Pedestrian Walkway: This exit is only to be used by boys who are walking home.

Siblings and Drop Off / Collection:

Siblings in CBS Primary: We have 176 families enrolled in our school. 15 families have two or more children enrolled in our school. If you are one of these 15 families AND you have sons in School 1 AND School 2 you may drop off your sons together at the one time (preferably the earlier time).

Siblings in St. Joseph's Infant School: Our new collection times should not affect your children in this school as they finish an hour earlier. If you need to drop your son at the earlier time this is ok.

Siblings in St. Anne's Primary School: We have worked in partnership as much as possible with St. Anne's Primary School to make this as smooth as possible. We understand that some of you might be affected with collection times. If this is the case please be assured that we will work around this as much as possible. This can be discussed next week.

OUR PRIORITY IS FOR THE SAFETY AND PROTECTION OF OUR BOYS.

Temperature Check

All pupils and staff will have their temperatures checked before entering any building on site. Temperatures will be read using infrared contactless thermometers. Those with a high temperature (37.6 degrees and above) will be asked to wait in a designated area for 10 minutes. Following this their temperature will be rechecked. If it has not fallen they will not be permitted to attend school and will need to be collected. Please do not send your son to school with a high temperature.

Visitors

Charleville CBS Primary has always had an 'open door' policy. CBS Primary is a central part of the community and it upsets us to announce that visitors are no longer openly welcome to our school. This includes parents / guardians, sales personnel and all members of the community. All communication must now take place via email or telephone. Our first priority is for the protection of our pupils and staff.



Office Contact: office@charlevillecbsprimary.ie (063) 89 544

Principal Contact: principal@charlevillecbsprimary.ie (063) 30 626

We have set up an outdoor meeting area for essential meetings which cannot be conducted through email or over the phone. This area is located in our shelter in the playground.

Class Bubbles

The children and their teachers will work in **Class Bubbles**. **A Class Bubble is a grouping which stays apart from other classes as much as possible.** Each classroom will be an individual bubble with the exception of the two ASD classes which will be treated as one bubble.

The aim of the system within the school is that class groupings mix only with their own class from arrival at school in the morning until the children go home at the end of the day.

Pods

Pupils will be arranged in the classroom in order to facilitate pods of between 4-6 pupils that are 1m apart. If possible the pupils within the pods should also be kept up to 1m apart. Each pod will have hands on materials and resources and these will not be shared with other pods in the classroom.

All unnecessary furniture will be removed from these classrooms to create as much space as possible. Physical distancing is not required for pupils from Junior Infants to Second Class but we have decided to promote physical distancing throughout the school.



School Bags, Books, Resources

School bags are not to be brought to school.

The boys can bring in copies and stationary on the first day in a carrier bag. The boys will take the carrier bag home and all copies and stationary will remain in school. It is essential that all your son's belongings are clearly labelled. There will be no homework marked for the initial weeks so books are not required to be brought home. It would be advisable to have another pencil case at home for when homework commences.

PLEASE RETURN ALL BOOKS FROM THE BOOK SCHEME. Those who do not return all books will not be eligible to join the scheme this year. Please also return any library books or school resources which you may have at home. Thank you for your co-operation.

Break Times

Please ensure that your son comes to a school with a good quality coat every day. PLEASE LABEL COAT. Break times will be staggered. Four Class bubbles will be out in the yard at any one time. Each bubble will be assigned an area in the yard.

Unfortunately Class Bubbles cannot mix with each other in the yard, *e.g. Mr Millane's 5th Class Bubble cannot interact with Mr. Neenan's 5th Class Bubble. However the five Pods in Mr. Millane's room will be permitted to interact with each other when out in the yard. The five pods in Mr. Neenan's room can also interact with each other.*

Helpful Tip! We advise pupils in 2nd and 3rd Class to bring in an old trousers on the first in case they need to change after a slip or fall in the grass at break time.

Lunch

Please source a strong plastic lunch box which can be easily washed every evening. Please put your child's name on the lunchbox with a permanent marker. All food wrappings will return home in the lunchbox / lunch bag.

A 'drop box' will be set up for items forgotten by children but dropped to school after their arrival e.g. lunchboxes.

Aladdin App

It is crucial that all parents / guardians can be easily contactable in case of an emergency.

We are aware a number of families have moved house over the Summer. If you have changed address or phone number please log on to your Aladdin App and update your contact details.

Uniform / Tracksuit

Please note that we operate a **strict uniform policy** at CBS Primary. Those not wearing the correct uniform may be sent home.

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: Uniform

Tuesday & Thursday: Tracksuit

School clothing must be washed on a daily basis. Footwear is also be cleaned as best as possible. We advise having a designated pair of shoes for school.

Please label uniform, tracksuit, lunchboxes and books with your child's name and class. Every year we throw out so many unclaimed jumpers and lunchboxes. PLEASE LABEL ALL BELONGINGS!!

Extra Curricular Activities

All after school activities have been temporarily cancelled. This includes Homework Club and all other before school and after school activities. We hope to resume activities as soon as it is safe to do so.

Face coverings

It is not recommended that children under 13 wear face coverings. However, the boys are permitted to use face coverings if they so wish.

All staff will be wearing face coverings.

Travelling Abroad - Covid-19 Green List as of August 6th 2020

Government has agreed that the following locations be included as 'normal precautions' on the Department of Foreign Affairs' Travel Advice:



Estonia	Finland	Greece
Greenland	Hungary	Italy
Latvia	Lithuania	Norway
Slovak Republic (Slovakia)		

Anyone arriving into Ireland from these locations will not have to restrict their movements. Passengers from any other location not on this list are asked to restrict their movements for **14 days**. Restricting your movements means avoiding contact with other people and social situations as much as possible. This includes not attending school.

The list will be reviewed on a fortnightly basis, based on advice from officials including public health experts.

Managing the risk of spread of Covid-19

a) Wash your Hands Frequently

Regular hand washing with soap and water is effective for the removal of COVID-19.

b) Hand Hygiene and Hand Sanitisers

Hand hygiene can also be achieved by the use of hand sanitisers (when hands are clean).

Dispensers will be available at entry and exit points and in each classroom. Appropriate signage outlining the correct usage of the sanitiser will accompany each dispenser.

c) Avoid Touching Eyes, Nose and Mouth

Why? Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth.

d) Physical Distancing

Physical distancing is recommended to reduce the spread of infection in the workplace. The school will follow physical distancing guidelines for schools as required by the public health authorities.

e) Practice respiratory hygiene

- Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or your bent elbow when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.
- By following good respiratory hygiene, you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and Covid-19.
- Good hygiene practices and washing your hands properly and regularly can help stop the spread of the virus. It is, therefore, crucial that all staff adhere to this advice and adopt the following practices as strictly as possible.
- We encourage parents to teach their children the important of good respiratory hygiene.

f) Do

- Wash your hands properly and often.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when you cough and sneeze.
- Put used tissues into a bin and wash your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

g) Do Not

- Touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.
- Share objects that touch your mouth – for example, bottles, cups, cutlery, etc.



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