

Naomh Lorcán Ó Tuathail.

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St. Laurence O'Toole's C.B.S.

Principal: Mark Candon
Deputy Principal: Úna Collins

Roll No: 17110B
Registered Charity Number: 20116842

20th August, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we look forward to reopening our school on Thursday, 27th August we hope everybody is keeping safe and well and have been enjoying the summer holidays.

The Department of Education and Skills has published a number of documents outlining required actions to facilitate and provide guidance for the safe reopening of schools, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. All of the relevant provisions in these documents are being implemented in St. Laurence O'Toole's CBS. These provisions are being developed in line with public health advice. The school Covid-19 Policy Statement and School Response Plan will be published on our school website www.larriers.ie before the school reopens.

Below we have outlined the key points in order to reopen our school safely. These arrangements will remain in place until reviewed by St. Laurence O'Toole's CBS. Board of Management or until further guidance from DES/HSE.

School timetable: For the moment start, finish and break-times will remain the same.

- Start time 8.50am
- Morning break 10.50am – 11am
- Lunch break 12.30pm – 1pm
- Finish time 2.30pm

We ask that pupils arrive at school between 8.40am and 8.50am and maintain social distancing on arrival in the yard before school.

Due to the Covid-19 protocols which have to be strictly observed and managed in the school, it is extremely important that all children be at school on time and that they leave immediately when school finishes. We respectfully ask for your cooperation in this regard.

Cleaning

The school has been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to reopening. Enhanced daily cleaning procedures will be in place within the school.

Hand washing and sanitiser

Children will be required to wash their hands a number of times each day. For example, when arriving into class in the morning, before lunch, after break times and after using the toilet.

Hand sanitiser stations have been installed in the school. Hand sanitiser will be provided for all pupils on arriving at school. If your child has a skin allergy/intolerance, please let us know and arrangements will be made for such children to apply their own sanitiser upon entry to school each day.

Other arrangements

• Parents /Guardians/ visitors must not enter the school building under any circumstances without prior appointment. All visitors entering the building will be required to complete a visitors' School Contact Tracing Log.

• In classes pupils will sit in pods of 4/6 pupils. These pods may be reviewed at a later date. The children's seating in each class will be prearranged by the class teachers.

• Homework will not be given for the moment.

• Pupils will only play with their own class groups in pre-marked zones during break times. Also, children should continue to bring a healthy lunch.

• Pupils should bring only essential items and no non-school personal belongings/toys into school. As they are not allowed to share resources, the school will provide all books, copies, pens, pencils, colouring pencils, crayons etc. Classrooms will be decluttered to facilitate daily enhanced cleaning. Consequently, pupil access to some classroom resources may be limited.

• Pupils will continue to wear their school uniform/school tracksuit in school.

• To avoid crossover of class groups and pods, all after school activities are postponed pending review of procedures.

• If your child has been abroad within 14 days of the school reopening, you must inform the school and be prepared for your child to quarantine for up to 14 days if necessary, in line with Government requirements.

- **Children, who are sick/not feeling well, should not attend school under any circumstances.** If possible, please check your child's temperature daily before sending him into school. Any child considered by staff to be sick/unfit to be in school under current protocols, will be promptly brought to the isolation area and parents/guardians will be contacted to collect their child immediately. If necessary, in such circumstances the Health Service Executive may provide further guidance to the school and/or relevant parents/guardians.

- **All contact details provided for pupils must be updated if necessary (where contact numbers may have changed during the school closure or if they change in the future). All children must have at least one contact available at all times.**

- While it is not a requirement, pupils may wear a visor/face covering in school if parents/guardians or the child wishes. It is not the responsibility of school staff to supervise or enforce wearing of masks.

We appreciate that some of the arrangements outlined may prove difficult and inconvenient. However, these procedures are required to ensure the safety of all children, families and staff in our school community. All of these arrangements are under constant review and subject to change if required. Further guidance may issue in advance of school reopening.

On a personal note I am aware that this is a lot of information to take in. Great consideration has been given to ensure the safety of our pupils, staff and school community. We rely on your support and patience as we do our best to keep your children safe with all of these new practices. This is a first for us all, hopefully we have covered all matters to ensure a smooth return to school. Where issues arise will work together to adjust them in order to meet the needs within our school. We welcome and appreciate any feedback and observations you may have.

We are so excited to see all the boys 'in person' and to welcome everyone back to school. See you all soon and best wishes for the new school year!

Yours sincerely,



Mark Candon
(Principal)