



VIRGIN MARY GIRLS' NATIONAL SCHOOL

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Roll No. 19303W

24th February 2021

Re. Phased return to primary school education

The return of Junior Infants, Senior Infants, First and Second Classes on Monday March 1st

Dear Parents/Guardians

Following the Taoiseach's address, in line with public health advice from NPHE, **Junior Infants, Senior Infants, First Class and Second Class** will return to school next **Monday, March 1st**.

First of all, can we just say how absolutely delighted we are to be welcoming your children back to Virgin Mary GNS next week. We have missed the children so much and are looking forward to working with them again.

School will begin at 8.50am as normal. The gate will open at 8.30am on Monday, March 1st and will open **at 8.40am from Tuesday onwards**. Ms. Nolan and I will direct children to their line from the gate. We are operating a strict '**Drop and Go**' policy.

Please find enclosed a '**Return to School**' declaration. This is VERY IMPORTANT. You must sign this to confirm that you have no reason to believe that your daughter has Covid-19.

This form must be returned to Ms. Cuthbert, **BY YOUR DAUGHTER**, at the school gate on Monday morning, March 1st. (Gate will be open at 8.30am on Monday, March 1st only)

Your daughter will not be allowed onto school grounds without this signed form.

Parents/Guardians MUST NOT GATHER outside/at the school gate. Stay well back from the gate and watch your child enter the school grounds from a safe distance. Stay well back from other parents/children at all times.

Parents/Guardians may not speak/meet with any teacher/member of staff at the school gate in the morning or evening. If you wish to speak with any member of staff, it must be via telephone 01 8421614.

We have **21 hand sanitisation stations** throughout the school. Your daughter will be asked to sanitise her hands upon arrival and at regular intervals throughout the day. We have plenty of hand sanitiser here but feel free to send some with your daughter if you want to.

All staff will be wearing **face coverings**. Children under 13 are NOT required to wear masks but if you want to send a covering, again feel free to do so.

People must not visit the building unless they have an appointment AND it is for an essential reason. Any adult who enters the building **MUST** wear a face covering. Please bring your own if you are coming into the school building.

Children can only play with children from their own class (bubble) on the **yard**. We ask you to remind your child of this please. The yard will be sectioned off and children will be expected to stay in their section and not cross into another section during yard time.

Your child is expected to wear her **school uniform or her school tracksuit** every day, whichever she feels is most comfortable and WARM during this period. Please change out of it as soon as she gets home. **Windows will be kept open in line with HSPC ventilation guidance.** Make sure that your daughter has a warm coat and an extra layer of clothing on under her uniform or tracksuit.

PLEASE SEND ALL SCHOOL BOOKS AND MATERIALS BACK WITH YOUR DAUGHTER ON MONDAY!!

Arrangements for Home time:

Same arrangements apply for Junior and Senior Infants.

Times have changed for First and Second as follows:

First Class: School finishes at 2.30pm

Second Class: School finishes at 2.20pm

Parents must not gather at the door. Stay well back from other parents/ children at all times.

Remember: If your child displays COVID-19 symptoms, THEY MUST NOT ATTEND SCHOOL. If your child displays symptoms, you must phone your doctor and follow HSE guidance.

Common symptoms of COVID-19 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 to 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

You/your child may not have all of these symptoms. It can take up to 14 days for symptoms to show. They can be similar to symptoms of cold and flu.

An early diagnosis from your GP means you can get the help you need and avoid spreading the virus, if you have it.

Parents/Guardians:

You **MUST NOT** send your child to school if they

-are a **close contact** of a person with **COVID 19**

- are awaiting a **test**

- experiencing **symptoms** of COVID-19.

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Niamh Cuthbert,
Principal.