



VIRGIN MARY GIRLS' NATIONAL SCHOOL

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Roll No. 19303W

17th August, 2020.

Re. Returning to school 27th August 2020 Junior Infants

Dear Parents/Guardians

First of all, we just want to say how absolutely delighted we are to be welcoming your daughter to Virgin Mary GNS next week (Thursday 27th August). We are all looking forward to the year ahead.

We know this is a very special time for you and your family. We want to make the experience as normal as possible while still following HSE guidelines.

You are welcome to bring your daughter to the classroom on her first day (Thursday, August 27th.) We ask that you come to the side door at **9.20am** and wait until a teacher brings you to the classroom. Myself and Ms. Nolan will be there to direct you. Please note that only **TWO** adults will be allowed to accompany your child on this day. Those adults must wear face coverings. Please observe social distancing while you are waiting outside the door.

Please collect your daughter from the same place at **11.45am** for the first two weeks. (Until Friday, September 11th) Her teacher (Ms. Murtagh) will bring her to the door. **NO PARENTS** will be allowed inside the building. We really appreciate your co-operation on this and we know that you understand that this is for your daughter's safety.

We will be outside to direct you all so please don't worry!

From the 14th of September, your daughter will take part in a full school day. From this date, she will be collected from the yard by her teacher at 8.50am. We will be operating a strict '**Drop and Go**' policy. We kindly ask that **NO PARENTS enter school grounds in the morning**. We also ask that you do not arrive early to avoid large gatherings at the gate. Children may **ONLY** come to school through the **top gate at senior yard**.

From the 14th of September, her school day will finish at 1.30pm and you will collect her from the side door.

We will be outside to direct you all so please don't worry!

Any parent who wishes to see me, a class teacher, or Sarah (our school secretary) for **ANY** reason e.g. buying tracksuits, paying book money, will have to **make an appointment** by calling the office on **01 8421614**. This is the only number to call for appointments. We realise that this is really different but we are sure that you will co-operate as it is in the best interests and safety

of your daughter. Any person visiting the school for longer than **15 minutes** will have to fill out a **contact tracing form**.

For children in **Junior Infants, Senior Infants, First Class and Second Class**, it will be business as usual in the classroom. The Department of Education realises that these children are too young to observe social distancing.

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** where a 2 metre social distance can't be observed. Children under 13 are NOT required to wear masks but if you want to send a covering, again feel free to do so.

Any adult who enters the building MUST wear a face covering. Please bring your own if you are coming into the school building.

During the month of September, the children will **not** be getting any **homework**. We will be focusing on reading and maths in school. We will also be prioritising your child's wellbeing in terms of adjusting back to school life. We will review this decision at the end of the month, and all going well, homework will start again in October.

As a result, your child does not have to bring much at all to school in September. We ask that you please only send a **pencil case** filled with whatever writing materials your child may need **that can be left in school** from the first day. This eliminates the need to bring things backwards and forwards from school.

PE will take place outside if the weather allows for it. You will be told which day is for PE when the children return to school. We ask that your child wears her school tracksuit on PE day with appropriate footwear.

Your child is expected to wear her **school uniform/school tracksuit** on every other day. We ask that your daughter only wears her school uniform/school tracksuit to school. Please change out of it as soon as she gets home.

Remember: If your child displays COVID-19 symptoms, ensure they DO NOT ATTEND SCHOOL ,phone your doctor and follow HSE guidance.

Kind regards,

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Niamh Cuthbert,
Principal.