

Re-opening Firhouse Educate Together N.S. September 2020

Information Pack for Parents, Guardians
and Pupils in Senior Infants



This document explains:

- **Entry and exit**
- **What can my child/children bring to school?**
- **Hand washing and hygiene**
- **Lunch**
- **Use of masks and PPE**
- **Wellbeing**
- **What has changed**
- **What is still the same**



Arrival: Senior Infants

Children in Senior Infants will enter the school at 08:30 from 1st September 2020:

- **Senior Infant Classes:** Children will enter through the back door of school keeping their distance from the children in front of them and proceed to their classrooms along the one way system outside and within the building.
- One parent/ guardian may accompany a child to the back door but this is not necessary as school staff will be in the grounds to ensure the children enter the building safely.
- Parents/guardians who choose to walk with their child to the back door must then exit via the one-way system.

Dismissal: Senior Infant Classes

- **Senior Infant Classes:** Using the one-way system, one parent/guardian can collect their child/children from the yard at rear of school at 13.05.

What can my child/children bring to school? (resources)

- Pupils should have **one backpack/bag only** with them during the day.
- **Senior Infants:** Children should bring 1 pencil, 1 rubber, 1 sharpener, maximum of 12 colouring pencils. (These materials will stay in school.)
- Children must not bring any extra stationery or toys from home into school or take any school stationery home.
- Pupils will bring home a **maximum** of 2 books and 2 copies for homework daily. Pupils will be asked to wipe each of these in class at the start of each day.



What can my child/children bring to school? (clothes)

- Children should bring an art shirt that is labelled with their name. This will be kept in the pupil's bag during the school day.
- Children should bring a change of clothes, that are labelled with their names. These will also be kept in their school bags.
- Children's coats should be clearly labelled with their names. Coats will be hung inside/outside the classroom on coat hooks, separated for different pods.



Bringing in Lunch:

- Please provide your child with their own water bottle and lunch box which are both clearly labelled with their name.
- These will be stored in the pupils' scholbags under their desks in their pods.
- All waste must be brought home by each child in their lunch box.
- Lunch containers should be washed thoroughly each evening at home.
- Sharing of lunches will not be permitted.
- No utensils will be provided in school.
- Please peel any oranges for the junior classes.



Handwashing and hygiene

- Pupils will wash their hands on arrival at school using the correct procedure. This will be demonstrated by staff members and hand washing song learnt.
- Pupils will also wash their hands before and after:
 - Eating
 - Playing in the yard
 - Participating in Physical Education
 - Using toilets
 - Using shared resources
- Pupils will also wash their hands at other times as required and before going home at the end of the school day.



Use of Masks and PPE



- We recommend that staff will wear masks during collection and pick up times. Staff are also required to wear masks where a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained.
- Should a pupil wear a mask, we request that a clean mask is worn each day.
- Parents/Guardians are also advised to wear masks during pick up and drop off.
- **Remember: Wearing a face covering or mask does not overrule the requirement to stay at home if displaying symptoms of Covid-19.**

Wellbeing

Covid-19 has brought challenges for all members of our school community. Our aim in Firhouse ETNS is to support and develop our pupils' wellbeing, to continue to build resilience, to keep them active and connected and to ensure a positive engagement with learning. There is no doubt that our return to school will be different and some pupils may feel anxious about this. However, most pupils will re-engage after an initial settling in period, which we will help them through.

Wellbeing

The wellbeing of school communities at this time is guided by five essential principles:

- A sense of safety
- A sense of calm
- A sense of belonging and connectedness to school
- A sense of self-efficacy and school-community efficacy
- A sense of hope (Roadmap, 2020)



What has changed?

We will come in through the **front door** and walk up the main stairs to the classroom.

We will use hand sanitizer when we enter and leave the school building.

We will walk in one direction around the school. Look at the arrows.

Adults will wear masks and visors sometimes :)

We will only use our own pencils, colours, rubbers or rulers.

If we share resources (maths cubes, tablets, whiteboards, toys) we will wipe them clean.

We will wash our hands before and after eating, using toilets, going to yard and in between.

We will bring our own cutlery for lunch and bring home all waste in our lunchboxes.

We will be learning outdoors so always have a rain jacket and change of clothes.



What is still the same?

We enjoy meeting our friends and our teachers in school.

We do our best work in school.

We have fun in school, in class, at P.E., on the yard.

We stretch our brains to learn a lot in school.

We enjoy using computers in school.

We share our thoughts and our jokes in class.

We are kind to everyone in school and they are kind to us.

We laugh a lot.

We help each other.

We run, hop, jump and skip and this year we will play on our new Climbing Frame!

Together we will have a great year ahead.