



Little Angels School

Knocknamona, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

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27/08/2020

Roll No 19724A

Dear Parent / Guardian, Staff Member,

The BoM and School Staff are looking forward to welcoming all our pupils and parents / guardians back to school for the 2020/2021 school year on Tuesday next, 1st September.

We are satisfied that we have control measures in place to ensure that this will be a safe re-opening. It will take some time for all of us to get used to the "new circumstances" as we become familiar with the new routines and procedures designed to keep everyone safe and to prevent the spread of the virus. There will, undoubtedly, be some unforeseen challenges and we will deal with these as they arise.

We would like to thank you for your co-operation in making preparations and look forward to working with you as we assist the children adapt to the necessary changes. We are also conscious of the fact that a lot of our pupils have not been in school since March and that they are looking forward to coming back to school to meet their friends again. We are aware that our new pupils are beginning a school year at a challenging time and have made plans to ensure that their arrival will be as free from stress as possible.

We have amended our procedures and routines within the school to ensure that there is as much Physical Distancing as is possible in our building. We will apply physical distancing in a practical and sensible way, recognising that the learning environment cannot be dominated by a potentially counterproductive focus on this issue.

Physical Distancing will be achieved in two ways: -

Increasing Separation. This will be achieved by re-configuring the classrooms to maximise physical distancing. Each class will be referred to as a pod and we will ensure that there is as little contact as possible between children in different pods. A pod is a group of children (normally 6) who will be in class together and who will stay in their pod while in the playground or elsewhere during the school day.

Decreasing Interaction. This will be achieved by decreasing the potential for children from different pods to interact. Pods will have scheduled access to the playground. Whole school activities, e.g., assembly will be enjoyed remotely using google meet. We will make these routines enjoyable activities for the children, emphasising safety at all times.

While all children will be welcome back to school, we would remind parents that, where children are displaying colds, coughs or flu like symptoms, they should not be sent to school. Children who display such symptoms in school will be isolated and parents asked to collect them from the school without delay.

In line with Department of Education guidelines we have a designated isolation room which is in the new prefab at the front of the school so that any pupil who has to be isolated can be collected from here. Should a pupil need to be isolated they will be accompanied by a member of staff until they are collected.

Children who have travelled from countries not on the Green List should not attend school during the 14-day self-isolation period

Further information on COVID-19 symptoms in children is available at: -
<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/if-your-child-has-symptoms.html>

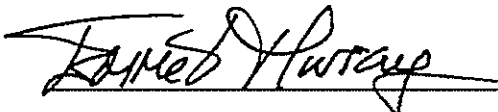
Teachers will continue to make children aware of the proper hygiene procedures regarding hand washing and etiquette related to sneezing, coughing or spitting. We would be grateful if you could also emphasise safe behaviour in this regard to your children at home as part of the preparation for returning to school.

As most of our pupils arrive at school by bus we are liaising with Bus Eireann in relation to arrival and dismissal at school. For those families who wish to continue dropping off and collecting their child/ren please adhere to the following points;

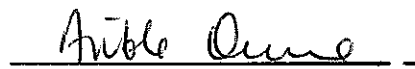
- Adults do not come within 2m of each other – if your child does not enter the school independently a member of staff will take your child from your car into the school.
- Parents do not try to have meetings with members of staff in the playground at drop-off and collection times – meetings between parents and teachers can only take place by prior arrangement. (This may have to be more restrictive depending on guidance - it is quite possible that the recommendation will be for remote meetings/telephonic communications.)

Should you have any questions or concerns at all please email Ailbhe at
principal@littleangelsschool.net.

Thank you in advance,



Chairperson, Board of Management



Principal