



SCOIL MHUIRE NÁISIÚNTA,  
Cros ar Loch, Co. an Chabháin

ST. MARY'S NATIONAL SCHOOL,  
Crosserlough, Co. Cavan

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School Blog/website: <http://www.crosserloughns.com>

24<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. We will continue with the changes that were implemented on our return to school in September 2020. That means that class bubbles will continue and children will be sitting in groups (pods) of no more than six children in each pod.

Please take time to read all the following and familiarise your child with the arrangements that existed last September.

### **Return Date to School**

Greet and meet Junior Infants on **Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> of August.** New Junior infants are to arrive at 10 am and will go home at 11 am on Tuesday only.

All pupils return to school on **Wednesday, 1st of September.**

Please check website for school calendar. [www.crosserloughns.com/calendar/](http://www.crosserloughns.com/calendar/)

### **Please note the following changes to reduce the risk of infection:**

#### **Arrival to School.**

Pupils will walk down the avenue keeping their distance from each other. Pupils should maintain their distance from each other when entering the school. Allow each other time to sanitise hands on way in. Pupils will enter their classroom through the following entrance points :

- 5th & 6th: Main front door.
- 3rd & 4th: Emergency Exit door of classroom (near the football goals)
- 1st & 2nd: Yard entrance
- Infants: Main front door. (**Week 1 & 2 Junior Infants will arrive at 10am and go home at 12.30 pm**)

#### **Sanitiser Dispensers**

There are Sanitiser Dispensers installed throughout the school and pupils and staff will have to sanitise on entering and exiting classrooms and school.

#### **Staggered Breaktimes**

- Infants and 3rd & 4th class will have their breaks at 10:50 to 11:00 and 12:30 to 1:00. Infants will play on the small yard and 3rd & 4th class will play on the big yard. Pupils must remain in their designated area until the bell rings. Once the bell rings pupils will line up with their class standing on a spot to maintain social distancing. On entering their classroom they must sanitise their hands. If hands are very soiled they can be washed with soap and water in the classroom. Lunches are eaten after returning from the yard.
- 1st & 2nd and 5th & 6th classes will have their breaks at 11:05 to 11:15 and 1:05 to 1:35. 1st & 2nd will play on the small yard and 5th & 6th will play on the big yard. Pupils must remain in their designated area until the bell rings. Once the bell rings pupils will line up with their class standing on a spot to maintain social distancing. On

entering their classroom they must sanitise their hands. If hands are very soiled they can be washed with soap and water in the classroom. Lunches are eaten before going out to play.

### **Toilets**

- Pupils will use the toilets off their classroom during class and breaktimes.
- 1st & 2nd class will use the toilets off the GP hall to avoid sharing with another class bubble.

Pupils must wash hands with soap and water. Dry hands well with paper towels. Place the used paper towels in the bins provided.

### **Lunches**

- Parents must ensure that children bring a healthy lunch and drink to school every day. Please remind your children not to share food or drink with other children. Before and after eating pupils will sanitise hands. Lunches must be eaten at their desk and all rubbish and leftovers will be brought home. Infants & 3rd & 4th will eat lunch after playing outside. Other classes will eat lunches before going out to play.

### **Coats**

- Coats can be hung on back of chairs or on designated hook on coat racks.

### **Books, copies, pencils etc.....**

- All personal belongings must be clearly labelled. Books should be covered in clear plastic and labelled. Books and personal items should not be shared. Pencil case items should remain in school. Extra items should be kept at home.

### **Uniforms**

- We will follow usual practice in relation to school uniform and PE tracksuit. Uniforms should be worn everyday, except on PE days, or otherwise requested by teachers. School uniform or tracksuits should be taken off straight after the child arrives home from school for the day. **Please ensure your child's name is written clearly on their school tracksuit top and school jumper.**

### **Homework**

- All homework should be completed to a high standard by each pupil and signed by parent/guardian. Pupils will be expected to learn spellings, tables, revise letter sounds, flash card words, and complete assigned reading tasks by each teacher. Please see school website to view our school's Homework Policy.

### **ICT**

- A device will be available for every individual to use at school. Devices should be cleaned after use. Communication between class teacher and home will be done using Classdojo. Class teachers will set up new accounts for new pupils in September. Your child's classdojo account will be transferred to their new teacher when moving class.

### **Visiting Teachers/coaches**

- We look forward to facilitating extra curricular activities such as Dancing, coaching for games, creative schools, etc in September. A local GAA coach will begin coaching the pupils in the second week of September for 4 weeks.

### **Physical Education**

- Physical Education lessons will take place outdoors weather permitting. All classes will be encouraged to take breaks and participate in 'The Daily Mile'.

### **Parent/Teacher Meetings**

- We will update you on Parent/Teacher meetings once we have received direction from the Dept. of Education. If a parent wishes to contact the teacher they may do so by communicating through classdojo or arranging a meeting over the phone with Brid, the school secretary. Parents should not try to speak with teachers on yard in the morning.

### **Appointments**

- Please try to arrange dental or doctor appointments outside school hours.

Please view all the relevant documents and advice on our school website <https://www.crosserloughns.com> regarding Covid-19 response plan and any developments.

If you have any common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), you should self-isolate and phone your GP straight away to get a coronavirus test. Parents are responsible for deciding on the fitness of their child to attend school.

### **Common symptoms of coronavirus include:**

- a fever (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above)
- a 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

### **Travel Abroad**

Government policy, which is based on official public health advice, continues to advise against non-essential travel overseas for everyone.

It is a requirement for anyone coming into Ireland, from locations other than those with a rating of 'normal precautions' ("green"), to restrict their movements for 14 days, and this includes school staff, parents and children or other students coming from abroad to attend school in Ireland.

## **General Information (2021-2022)**

### **Uniform:**

Students are expected to present themselves neatly. Full uniform must be worn at all times. All items with school crest are available from Quick Pick, Ballyjamesduff.

- Grey trousers or skirt/pinafore
- Wine jumper with school crest (Quick Pick)
- White polo shirt
- Grey socks/tights
- Black halfzip top with school crest ( Quick Pick)
- Black tracksuit bottoms (no logos)

### **Physical Education:**

School tracksuit should be worn only on days your child has PE. Class teachers will inform you of the day your child has PE.

### **School Calendar:**

Please check school website to view the school calendar. [www.crosserloughns.com](http://www.crosserloughns.com)

### **School Transport:**

Parents wishing to avail of school transport must contact Bus Eireann. Application forms are available on-line at [www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie) or by contacting Bus Eireann office in Dundalk, Tel (042-9355625)

### **Healthy Eating Policy:**

Please see school website to view the school's Healthy Eating Policy.

## **Health and Safety:**

**Children should not arrive any earlier than 10 minutes before school opening in the morning. Doors open at 9.20 am.**

Children who go home by car must be collected at the front of the school and accompanied across the road by a parent/guardian. Please inform child minders of this safety measure.

Parents who accompany their children to school may bid them farewell at the gate into the yard. There is no need to wait with your child once they are inside the gate.

If a pupil is absent from school **a pupil return to school form** should be filled in and returned with your child along with a note explaining your child's absence.

Please remember not to delay when collecting or dropping your child at school.

## **Textbooks:**

Our book rental scheme saves parents a lot of money, especially as children get older. Parents are notified of the cost of book rental in September. This money is then used to buy sets of books for the class which are used by the children in school. They are normally replaced because the books are out of date rather than because of the condition of the books. Parents of children who damage a book will be asked to replace the book. This year Parents are asked to buy some workbooks which are no longer on the school book rental scheme. These books are written into for homework and therefore cannot be used the following year. We are aware of the costs of new books and we can assist any parents who may need financial assistance in purchasing these workbooks. All books in Junior and Senior infants will be purchased through the school and parents will be notified of the cost of the books in September. Parents are expected to cover and label their child's books once they receive them in September.

## **Stationary List:**

A stationary list was sent out to all parents with the school report. Please ensure your child has each item on the stationary list labelled and with them on the first day back in September. The stationary list for each class will be posted on the school website.

We will continue to update parents and pupils via textparent and our school website. Please ensure you have submitted 3 contact numbers and email address to [office@crosserloughns.com](mailto:office@crosserloughns.com) for future correspondence. Finally, we want to thank all parents for the support given to our school during the year. Your support is much appreciated.

Yours Sincerely,

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Teresa Galligan, Principal

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Siobhan Clarke, Deputy Principal