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**Guardian Angels’ N.S.**

**Return to School**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q.1. Is the school still opening on the 27th August?**

A. Yes, the school will reopen on the 27th August.

**Q.2. What do children wear to school?**

A.   Either traditional uniform or P.E. tracksuit as per your child’s teacher instruction. At the start of term your child will be advised which days he/she is required to wear their P.E. uniform.

We ask that your child removes his/her uniform as soon as possible after going home in order to reduce the possibility of contamination. If it is possible, please hang the uniform in a well ventilated area or on a clothes line for an hour or two.

Alternatively, hang your child’s uniform in a wardrobe where it can be separated from other clothes where possible.

**Q.3. Can I go into the school with my child on the first day back? He/ she is anxious about returning to school after such a long time.**

A. No, for the safety of all children, parents and staff, parents cannot enter the building. Send an email to the school if you feel your child is overly anxious and his/ her teacher can manage this. As you plan and prepare for your child’s return to school try to remain calm and collected in their company. This will eliminate any transferred worry or fear.

Teachers will communicate with parents via email or phone call if needs be.

**Q.4. Does my child need to bring hand sanitiser to school?**

A. Yes, we ask that children bring their own small hand towel (face cloth is ideal), and First to Sixth Class pupils should have a small size hand sanitiser and tissues on their person at all times. These can all be stored in a bum bag or small zip lock bag for hygiene purposes and ease of access.

Children can develop good organisational skills having a system such as this. *This is a mere suggestion. You will know how to organise your child.*

**Q.5. My child has a cough - only a cough but last week he had a temperature for a couple of days.**

I felt it was okay to send him with one symptom. Is this the case?

A. Seek your doctor’s advice on whether or not it is safe for him to attend school.

**Q.6. Can she/ he come to school with one symptom?**

A. No child should come to school if s/he has any symptom of Covid-19.

**Q.7. Can his sister/ brother go to school?**

A. Siblings of a pupil who has symptoms of Covid-19 should not attend the school until the all clear has been given by a qualified medical person,

**Q.8. Can I go to work?**

A. Seek advice from your employer or consult the policy in workplace. If you have any doubts seek advice from the H.S.E.

**Q.9. Does my child or I need to go to the doctor if I have no symptoms, but I have heard (from another parent/on class WhatsApp e.g.) there is a suspected case in my child’s class/ school?**

A. Try not to speculate or get involved with schoolyard gossip. The school will provide guidance and advice on such matters as promptly as possible.

**Q.10. Will the whole class be sent home if there is a suspected case in their class? Will the school close down when a child is sent home with symptoms?**

A. The school will be advised by the HSE on the correct course to follow.

**Q. 11. What if my child needs to be collected earlier than normal or dropped off after school has started?**

A.  Please let the school know beforehand

When you arrive at the school, call reception and the child will be brought to the front door. Please remember that will you have to remain outside the building. Please allow extra time before appointment to allow us to safely retrieve your child.

**Q.12.** **What happens if my child forgets his/ her lunch or an item of school equipment?**

A. There will be a ‘drop box’ outside the entrance door to the school where you can drop off the item. Please ensure it is clearly labelled with your child’s name, class and teacher and we will get it to them.

**Q.13. I’m worried about my child being exposed to Covid-19 once they return to school. What should I do?**

A. You are the parent. You know your child. Watch out for symptoms to protect them and yourself and everybody. Discuss any particular concerns with your GP.

The school is committed to remaining open. We can only do this with your help. If we as a school community, are vigilant hand washers and sanitisers, and follow social distancing guidelines this mean disruption to the school routines will be kept to a minimum.

We as teachers are responsible for incorporating additional ‘Covid 19’ hygiene routines into the school day. But we need you to reinforce them at home, so they are embedded rituals that we must all carry out. So that we all stay well.

In order for your child to feel comfortable and secure in this age of cleanliness and order, we will be initially focusing on the core curriculum areas such as Maths, English and Irish, as well as Social Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E.) and Physical Education (P.E.).

**Q.14. What size are the “pods” within the classes?**

A 5/6 children will form a pod.

**Q.15. Am I allowed have a playdate with a child from another pod?**

A Yes outside of school.

**Q.16. I have one child in the Red group and another child in the Blue group. Can I drop off the “Red” child at the same time as the “Blue” child to reduce time hanging around in the car park?**

A No. The purpose of the different drop off times is to reduce the congregation of children and parents. Dropping the children off at the same time will reduce the effectiveness of these measures.

**Q. 17. I have an older child in the later group and a Junior Infant in the earlier group. Is it ok if I drop off the Junior Infant at the later time – is that first 20 mins of the day that important at that age?**

A No. We would ask that you drop off the child at the correct designated time. It can be unsettling for a Junior Infant to arrive in late.

**Q.18. How is a close contact defined?**

A We defer to the HSE for the definition of close contact. The HSE will contact you if your child is deemed to be a “close contact” of anyone who has tested positive for the virus.

**Q.19. My child is dropped off by a Pre/After School provider – are there any additional issues here?**

A Your child will have to be dropped off and collected at the appropriate time whether s/he is in the Red Group or Blue Group.

**Q.20. Will the teachers be wearing masks/visors? Particularly in the Junior and Senior Infant classes when the children may be more nervous?**

A variety of PPE has been ordered for the teachers. They will wear the PPE that they feel will give them and the children the protection that they need in order to teach the children. Please remember that a teacher may have an underlying condition or be shielding an older relative at home – we are all in this together and the teachers in our school will do what they can in order to make your children as comfortable as possible in these trying times.

**Q.21. Am I right in saying that Junior and Senior Infants are not to bring in pencils/crayons to the school?**

A Yes, the school will provide the materials that they need and will provide boxes in which their materials can be safely stored.

**Q.22. Will there be signs at the various gates showing where the children should enter and leave the school grounds.**

A Yes, there will be signage at each gate but we would ask that you accompany your child in the first few days to familiarise themselves with their entry and exit points**.**

**Q. 23. Should I wear a face mask while dropping and picking up my child?**

A While face masks are not currently mandatory outside, we would ask that you would wear a face mask during drop off and pick up and at times where there is a possibility that social distancing cannot be observed. We would ask that you maintain social distance at all times with other parents.

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