

Scoil Náisiúnta Chaisleáin Uí Liatháin

Re. Reopening of Castlelyons National School

4ú Lúnasa 2020

A Thuismitheoirí, a chairde,

I hope you and your families are keeping well.

As you are aware, our school has now been closed since 12th March due to the COVID-19 situation. We are now hoping to reopen our school in line with current guidance and recommendations.

Reopening the school safely will require the co-operation of all members of our school community – Board of Management (BoM), school leadership, staff, parents and pupils. We will all be called on to play our part in ensuring that the reopening of the school is done in a safe manner which prevents the spread of the virus and allows the vital work of teaching and learning to proceed with as little disruption as possible.

We have been working on our plan for the safe reopening of the school for some weeks now and have published the DES, “COVID-19 Response Plan for the Safe and Sustainable Reopening of Primary and Special Schools” on our school blog. The Covid-19 Response Plan gives details of:

- Physical preparation, signage, hand sanitiser stations;
- Advice, procedures and training for the safe return to working in the school for all school staff and pupils;
- General and specific advice on how all pupils, staff, parents and visitors will prevent the spread of the virus.

We have also published our COVID-19 Policy Statement on blog. We will keep you informed as to the progress of our reopening plans and provide you with further information required by you to play your part in safely reopening the school.

It has also been brought to my attention that information is circulating among parents that children’s uniforms will require washing on a daily basis and so some parents are considering if they should buy multiple uniforms / tracksuits in order to have a washed one for each school day. This is *not* mentioned in any correspondence which we have received from the Department of Education & Skills (DES) / HSE on the reopening of schools. (Incidentally, all the information that schools have received from the DES on reopening is available for everybody to view on the Homepage of the DES website under the “Back to School tab”). Therefore, unless we are informed otherwise in the coming days / weeks, uniforms or tracksuits *can* be worn on consecutive days without washing in between (As in previous years, uniforms on Mondays and Tuesdays, tracksuits on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, unless notified differently in advance of returning). It would be prudent and sensible of course that uniforms / tracksuits be washed regularly and that your child would wear the uniform / tracksuit *only at school* and not in shops etc., and change out of the school clothes immediately after arriving home in the evening.

We are looking forward to welcoming our pupils back to school and will be doing all that we can to ensure that the return to school is a safe and enjoyable experience for your children.

We will be in touch with you again with further updates in due course.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Anne Fay

(Cathaoirleach - Bord Bainistíochta)

Nelius de Róiste

(Príomhoide)

The following websites provide further information on COVID-19 and on government advice and recommendations regarding the reopening of schools.

- <https://www.education.ie/en/covid-19/>
- <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>
- <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/a128d-back-to-school/?referrer=http://www.gov.ie/backtoschool/>