

Edmondstown National School
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26th August 2020

Dear Parents & Staff,

The start of a new academic year approaches on 31st August. This will be a new year like no other. The Board of Management, Parents' Association and Covid 19 team have been working hard to ensure a safe return for all. There are some very important documents associated with our return to school which are now available under the Home Tab – School Policies. The Logistics Plan outlines staggered start and finish times, plus details regarding school bags and lunches and so it is important that all parents are familiar with this.

We request that on either Thursday or Friday morning 27th /28th August, that parents of 3rd to 6th class would drop off school rental books into the boxes provided in the school shelter. These will be stored until next year as we use alternative rental books every second year. However, please retain your child's maths and Irish rental books and send them to school on Monday. The children will re-visit these for the month of September in order to catch up on work missed. In keeping with Department of Education Curricular guidance, priority for teaching and learning will be placed on Numeracy, English, Irish, Physical Education, Wellbeing and SPHE (Social, personal and health education).

Our approach in school will be to apply common-sense, create awareness, do everything practical to avoid introduction of Covid 19 into the school and to insist that people who are unwell stay at home. The first few weeks back will be about settling the boys and girls in and getting into our new routines. Our aim is to have as much normality as possible in our classes. We know that it is not possible to eliminate the risk of infection, however, with the co-operation of all members of our school community, it is possible to make a great effort to minimise the risk of the virus being introduced into the school and the consequent hazard of its spread. As well as co-operation, the flexibility and goodwill of all members of our school community will be required to ensure the Response Plan and Logistics plan can be implemented. Can we take this opportunity to thank our Board of Management, Parents' Association, Covid 19 team, staff and wider community for all their efforts in getting our school ready for re-opening. It has been inspiring to see such willingness and co-operation.

We look forward with excitement and joy to welcoming everyone back and indeed to welcoming our new Junior Infants to school for the first time – what a great adventure awaits!

Le gach dea-ghuí

Philomena Cleary
Principal

Rev. R. Lyng, OSA
Chairperson