



Corridor Echoes

Volume 15

Issue 1

September 2020

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First Holy Communion.

Our current 3rd class pupils will celebrate their First Holy Communion on Saturday 26th September. Details from the Parish Office will be communicated to parents shortly.

Congratulations to last year's 6th class pupils who celebrated their Confirmation on 29th August. And well done also to all of our past pupils who received their Leaving Certificate results recently. Best wishes to you all as you begin this new chapter in your lives.

Welcome to New School Year

Dear Parents,

It's great to be finally back at school and our staff were delighted to welcome everyone back to what no doubt will be another very busy school year. Thank you all so much for your cooperation and support, particularly in regard to the new procedures and measures which have been put in place due to the current pandemic. A very special welcome to all our new pupils and their families. We hope that you will have many happy years with us. This edition of Corridor Echoes contains lots of very useful and important information.

Drop off procedures

- Between 9:10am and 9:20am-Pupils whose surname begins with the letters A-L.
- Between 9:20am and 9:30am-Pupils whose surname begins with the letters M-Z.
- Pupils who attend creche / before school supervision / breakfast club enter the school any time from 9:10am - 9:30am.

Collection times

1.45pm	Junior Infants
2.00pm	Senior Infants
2.45pm	2nd class
2.50pm	1st class
3.00pm	3rd - 6th class

Please note that the drop off times outlined above apply to all pupils, including Junior and Senior Infants. The drop off system has worked extremely well and we would like to thank parents for their cooperation. We've reduced the window to drop pupils off by 10 minutes so all pupils will be able to enter the school between 9.10am and 9.30am, as outlined above.

Parents are asked to maintain social distancing when on the school grounds and follow directions to the appropriate collection point.

Book Rental Scheme: Our book rental scheme now goes from 2nd to 6th class. We would like to thank all parents who have paid this fee. For those that have not paid the fee, you may do so through Aladdin ePayments; contacting the school secretary and paying over the phone; making an appointment to call into the office or by sending the payment in with your son.

Isolation Quick Guide—applying to those aged greater than 3 months and up to 13th birthday

Please read the information/guide below which explains when you should keep your child at home from school.

COVID-19 symptoms: Fever more than or equal to 38.0 degrees Celsius, new cough, shortness of breath or anosmia, dysguesia or ageusia (loss of sense of smell, loss of sense of taste or distortion of sense of taste).

Self-isolation means staying indoors and completely avoiding contact with other people. This includes other people in your household, as much as possible. It applies to people with proven or suspected COVID-19.

Restricting movement means avoiding contact with other people and social situations as much as possible. It applies to those who are without symptoms but considered at higher risk of developing COVID-19 because they were exposed to a particular risk.

These guidelines are provided by the HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre and can be viewed online by visiting www.hpsc.ie

Condition	Person	Others
1. Proven COVID-19	Self-isolate 14 days with last 5 days without fever	Close contacts restrict movements for 14 days (after last contact with case)
2. COVID-19 symptoms, not tested	Self-isolate 14 days with last 5 days without a fever	Close contacts restrict movements for 14 days
3. COVID-19 symptoms awaiting test (this includes patients with samples reported as indeterminate/invalid until such time as repeat test is available or it has been determined that COVID-19 has been excluded on other grounds)	Self-isolate pending test result	Members of the household restrict movements pending test results
4. COVID-19 symptoms test result “Not Detected”	Follow medical advice. Restrict movement until 48 hours symptom free	Restrictions no longer needed
5. Some medical symptoms that may be COVID-19 related and awaiting medical assessment that day to determine if testing is required.	Self-isolate pending assessment	No restrictions until medical assessment offers further direction.
6. Runny nose or other minor symptoms and ‘off-form’, no fever equal to or greater than 38.0 degrees Celsius, no cough, no shortness of breath, NO ill household contacts or history of travel.	Keep home from school or childcare for a period of 48 hours to observe emerging condition	No restrictions
7. Runny nose or other minor symptoms and ‘off-form’, no fever equal to or greater than 38.0 degrees Celsius, no cough, no shortness of breath, but YES to history of travel or household members with symptoms of COVID-19.	Self-isolate pending assessment	Members of the household restrict movements pending assessment
8. Runny nose, not unwell, good form, good energy and normal appetite, no fever, not requiring paracetamol, ibuprofen or any other antipyretic.	Can go to school	No restrictions
9. No symptoms, close contact of a proven case	Restrict movements for 14 days, testing as advised	No restrictions
10. Travel from non “Green List” country	Restrict movements for 14 days, self-isolate and test if symptoms develop	No restrictions unless the person who has returned develops symptoms.

School Calendar for 2020 / 2021

Tuesday 1st September: Opening of new school year

Monday 26th Oct. - Friday 30th Oct.: School closed for Mid-term Break

Wednesday 23rd December: School closed for holidays

Wednesday 6th January 2020: School re-opens

Thursday 18th & Friday 19th February: School closed for Mid-term Break

Wednesday 17th March: St. Patrick's Break

Monday 29th March: School closed for Easter holidays

Monday 12th April: School re-opens

Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th May: School closed

Monday 7th June: School closed

Friday 25th June: End of school year; school closes for summer holidays



REMINDER

In line with the school's healthy lunch policy Friday is "Treat Day". One treat, not a lunch box-full please.

School Policies

Schools are required to have policies on curricular, organisational and management areas. Policies need to be amended and updated from time to time in line with changing circumstances and legislation. There will be certain policies reviewed or developed where we would appreciate the views of parents. Please keep an eye on our school website where we will be uploading policies which may be useful. If you have any views on any of these topics please send them in to the office or directly to the Principal. We welcome all helpful and practical contributions from parents. If you wish to see any current or draft school policy please contact the office with your request or visit our school website and go to the *Policies* tab.

School Rules:

Our rules are few in number and are very easy to keep. We ask all parents and guardians to ensure that the boys know and follow our simple rules. We make no apologies for enforcing our rules. A copy of the school's Code of Behaviour is available on our website.

Cumann na mBunscol Competitions

Unfortunately there will be no Gaelic Football matches or other sporting competitions involving schools for the foreseeable future. The situation will be reviewed in November and a decision will be made by Cumann na mBunscol about future games/events.

Contact Details

Please ensure that any change of address or phone numbers are given to the office. It is vital that we have correct phone numbers for all parents/guardians. You wouldn't believe how many wrong numbers we get so please make sure that we have your correct details.

Meeting the Class Teacher

Please note that the class teacher is the first point of contact if a parent has a concern. If you would like to communicate with the class teacher you can do so through Classdojo or by making an appointment through the office with Jackie, our secretary.

School Uniform and Tracksuit

All pupils, from Senior Infants to 6th class, must have a school uniform and a school tracksuit.

Junior Infants are only required to have a school tracksuit but may wear the uniform if they wish.

Tracksuit

The school tracksuit is *only* available from Excel Promotions.

Uniform

Option A - The full school uniform (green jumper, grey shirt, grey pants and green tie) is available from Excel Promotions. There is a choice of crested or non-crested jumper.

Option B - The full uniform is also available from Shaws, The Quay, Waterford. Please note that only a non-crested jumper is available from Shaws.

The shirt, polo shirt and pants may be purchased in other shops also - provided they are the correct colour. No variations in colour or style are allowed. The school went through the process of dealing with school uniforms and tracksuits in the past as laid down by the Department of Education and Skills. It is very important that all parents follow the simple rules about our uniform and tracksuit.

Contact details for Excel Promotions

Address: Unit 12J, Six Cross Roads Business Park, Waterford.

Phone: (051) 379 606

Email: sales@excelpromotions.ie

Website: www.excelpromotions.ie

Child Protection

It is important for parents to be aware that Mr Robinson is the Designated Liaison Person (DLP), and Ms Quillinan is the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP). If there is ever a child protection concern it should be brought in the first instance to the attention of the DLP. If the DLP is not available the concern should be brought to the DDLDP.

Aladdin Connect

The school uses the Aladdin Schools software service for administrative purposes and Connect will give parents secure access to messages from the school and to details of your child's attendance, test results, reports cards etc. via secure login from your internet browser or Aladdin Connect App.

Aladdin Connect is a fantastic way to enhance a school's communication with parents. It enables parents to stay connected and informed about their child's education by:

1. Ensuring that the school has their most up to date contact information
2. Allowing schools to gather permission(s) from parents
3. Allowing parents to quickly and efficiently select preferred slots for parent teacher meetings
4. Keeping parents apprised of their child's attendance
5. Keeping parents up to date on school and classroom news via noticeboard messages
6. Allowing parents to view what items their child had for homework today
7. Keeping parents up to date on what library book their child is currently reading and if it is due/overdue to be returned
8. Allowing parents view their child's approved report card
9. Allowing parents to view their child's latest standardised test results

Along with strengthening our home/school partnership, we also envisage Aladdin Schools Connect helping the school by:

1. Helping to improve attendance by allowing parents to keep track of any school days their child may have currently missed, along with late arrival and early leaving information
2. Helping to reduce the amount of class/school notes being sent home
3. Helping the school/ teachers communicate with parents when the need arises
4. Reducing costs by eliminating the need to send school report cards by post
5. Reducing costs by reducing the number of text messages that need to be sent

In the next few days, any family not currently registered for Connect will receive a text/email message containing your registration link. There will be one link per parent which will allow the parent to access information for all their children in the school from one user account.

If you have any queries about using Connect or how to set it up, please contact the school by emailing admin@ferrybankbns.ie or phoning the office on 051851399.