

S.N. An Chill Bheag
An Chill Bheag
Droichead Uí Cheachalláin,
Ceanannas,
Contae na Mí



Kilbeg National School
Kilbeg,
Carlanstown,
Kells,
Co. Meath.

Guthán 046-9246603

email: kilbegschool@gmail.com
Website: www.kilbegschool.com

Telephone 046 - 9246603

Kilbeg National School Plan for Parents and Children

Dear Families,

The Staff of Kilbeg NS have been working hard over the last few months to organise, plan and set up for a safe return to school for pupils and ourselves. These are unusual and uncertain times for us all so I hope you feel reassured, informed and positive after reading about our plan to reopen on Monday 31st August. There have been many necessary changes made which are outlined below.

All teaching principals have been granted one administrative day per week and to maintain consistency for our pupils a cluster has been formed which has allowed us to employ a teacher for the year to cover this leave. This will take place in the Infant classroom, each Wednesday and will be the same teacher for the duration of the year. This teacher will follow the school plan and we will collaborate to ensure consistency in both teaching and learning for all pupils.

Any queries and questions are much welcomed and encouraged and can be sent to kilbegschool@gmail.com

The staff will complete multiple lessons on correct hygiene, lining up, the importance of hand sanitising , staying within their pods/bubbles etc. with the children during the first weeks back in school.

Role of Parents:

It is important that parents have a clear understanding of the benefits and risk of childcare and that it is not possible to guarantee that infection can be prevented in any setting either in a childcare centre, school or in the home.

The following are protocols that are put in place to safeguard the health and safety of each other. Parents are expected to abide by them and failure to do so may result in a

parent being instructed to remove a child from the school building/yard, and or to leave the school premises themselves. If serious breaches of safety measures occur, the Board and or the police may be informed or called if needed.

Under **no circumstances** is a parent to bring a child to school -

- If the child is exhibiting any symptoms of Covid 19
- If the child has a temperature, is sneezing, coughing, who has been vomiting or has diarrhoea.
- If a child has been outside of the country in the 14 days prior to August 27th, they are not to attend school but must isolate
- If the child has been in contact with any family member and or other person who has Covid.

Arrival and departure procedures for children and parents:

- Parents must arrive on time for leaving in and collecting their child.
- Only parents or carers who are well and have no symptoms of COVID-19 or who have served the required quarantine time of 14 days where advised are allowed to drop off and collect children.
- Any parent who is in a high risk category should not drop off or collect children in order to protect themselves. (This of course is at the discretion of the individual parent/carer/grandparent's discretion).
- All children will make their way directly to their assembly zone on the school grounds where their teacher will meet them over the first few days.
- Under no circumstances are parents to linger after the child has been handed over but are to leave immediately.
- Home times will be staggered for classes from first to sixth- 2.45pm 2.50pm, 2.55pm and 3.00pm. The Junior and Senior Infants will go home at the normal time exiting through the gates leading into the school car park.
- We kindly request parents of Infants and 1st & 2nd class pupils to wait visibly at the gate and to maintain social distancing in the evening time when waiting to collect a child. All other parents (3rd-6th class) must wait in their cars.
- All must leave the yard immediately after collection.

- No parent will be allowed within the school building.
- Should a matter of urgency arise for parents, they must phone the office and make an appointment for access. Access will only be permitted once their temperature has been taken and they have used the hand sanitiser. Once inside the school building they must maintain the required social distance and follow the directions of the principal/staff member.
- At arrival and departure times of children, social distancing is to be maintained by children and parents.
- Under no circumstances are parents and carers to gather in groups while waiting for the bell to sound
- Collection times will be staggered to avoid groups of parents/children congregating together
- Classes have been assigned specific zones outside to assemble in the morning and also have assigned doors for entry and exiting the school.

Daily Morning Assembly:

At 9.10am the main gates will be opened. The children will make their way directly to their coloured assembly zones and must remain there until called in order to enter their classrooms. 3rd- 6th pupils must maintain social distancing at all times. All staff will be present in their zones and to assist and direct pupils when needed.

No children are permitted on the school grounds before 9.10am and after 3pm.

Junior/ Senior Infants Mrs. O'Connor **Yellow cone zone** (grassy area with bench under tree close to windows)

First/ Second Class Mrs. O'Reilly **Red cone zone** (grassy area with fairy tree and vegetable patches)

Third/ fourth Class Mrs. Thorpe **Blue cone zone** (grassy area beside pitch)

Fifth/ Sixth Ms.Wilson White cone zone (football pitch)

If a child appears unwell on entering the classroom, in the interests of the safety of the staff and the other children, the principal will contact the parent and ask the parent to take the child home immediately.

Daily Dismissal:

2.00pm: Junior/ Senior infants will be accompanied by Mrs. O'Connor to the gate leading to the school car park where they will be handed over to parents or minder.

All Junior Infant pupils will finish at 12pm for the first two weeks of school.

2. 45pm: Bus children will exit via their assigned doors and make their way to the bus.

2.50pm: 1st/2nd Class will exit via their assigned door and make their way to the school gates. We kindly request 1st/2nd class parents to wait visibly at the gate, maintaining social distancing at all times.

2.55pm: 3rd/4th Class will exit via their assigned door and make their way to the school car park.

3.00pm: 5th/6th Class will exit through their assigned door and make their way to the school car park.

Yard and Break Times:

Both breaks will be staggered to ensure there is adequate time and space to allow our pupils to enjoy their play time outside safely. Children will exit and re-enter the classrooms via their assigned doors and will only play within their class bubbles and designated play zone. There will be a 10 minute space between breaks to allow for classes to exit and re-enter safely without passing the next group.

10.50-11.00am: Infants & 5th /6th to rotate the use of the football pitch and basketball courtyard for play time.

11.10-11.20am: 1st/2nd & 3rd/4th to rotate the use of the football pitch and basketball courtyard for play time.

12.30-1.00pm: Infants & 5th /6th to rotate the use of the football pitch and basketball courtyard for play time.

1.10-1.40pm: 1st/2nd & 3rd/4th to rotate the use of the football pitch and basketball courtyard for play time.

Other Responsibilities for Parents:

- Hand sanitiser will be provided for your child. Parents are asked to ensure that your child has their own packet of tissues and a facecloth for drying hands which are labelled coming to school. These must be replaced when empty and facecloths washed regularly.
- Parents must ensure that all of the child's stationary/books/copies are labelled with the child's name as equipment/books cannot be shared.
- Parents are to ensure that their child knows and uses the protocols around coughing/sneezing/use of tissues/hand sanitisers prior to returning to school.
- Parents must ensure that all books/writing equipment/lunch boxes/water bottles are sanitised using alcohol wipes on completion of homework before being placed in the child's schoolbag.
- Water bottles are to be filled at home every evening.
- Pencils to be paired at home and copies ruled.
- Children are to go to the bathroom before they leave home for school daily.
- Children are to wash their hands before leaving for school

Uniforms:

- Children's uniforms must be clean and washed regularly as a child may have coughed or sneezed into their sleeve as per coughing protocols.
- The pupils of junior/senior /first class must wear Velcro shoes/ runners to avoid the handling of laces.

Children who may have symptoms:

- Any child who is unwell with a fever, has a cold, influenza or infectious respiratory symptoms or is displaying any of the symptoms of coronavirus is to stay at home.

The child's parent should contact their GP and seek their guidance on referral for coronavirus testing.

- Temperature testing will take place as is currently the practice for children who may be unwell. Parents will be contacted immediately and must remove the child if the temperature is over 37.5 C.

Protocols if a child becomes unwell or presents as a suspected case of COVID-19 while at school -

- The child will be brought to the Isolation Room (Second room in the Cabin) by a staff member keeping at least 2 meters apart from the staff member.
- The parent will be immediately contacted and asked to come to the school to take the child either to the doctor or home. The handover will take place at the Cabin door.
- A mask will be given to the child to wear until he/she is picked up. The secretary/principal/SNA will remain with the child until he/she is picked up.
- Dedicated waste bins will be in use.
- The staff member caring for the child in isolation should wear personal protective equipment i.e. face mask, disposable apron and gloves.
- The child should be encouraged not to touch surfaces, people or any objects.
- Public transport of any kind should not be used by the parent to take the child home.
- Appropriate cleaning and disinfection of the isolation area and the child's work station will be carried out immediately.
- The principal and the DLW will carry out an assessment of the incident which will form any part of follow up actions.
- The principal will inform the HSE in line with correct protocols.

If there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in school.

- The school will be contacted by local Public Health staff of the HSE to discuss the case. They will identify people who have been in contact with the person and advise on any actions or precautions that should be taken.
- An assessment will be undertaken by HSE public health staff.
- Advice on the management of children and staff who came into contact with the person will be based on this assessment.

Symptomatic people should self-isolate and arrange to get tested for COVID-19. Confirmed COVID-19 cases should continue to self-isolate at home for a minimum of 14 days and should not return to school until they are advised that it is safe to do so. Close contacts of a confirmed case (their partner/family member should be notified and go home if at work and restrict their movements for 14 days. They should not attend work during that time.

Children in High Risk Groups: Parents should seek advice from their GP/Specialist if they think their child is in a high risk group. They must make an informed decision if it is safe for their child to return to school on August 31st. They should inform the principal of the advice given. If there are any parents out there who have concerns about their child's health, please contact the principal at kilbegschool@gmail.com

The Minister of Health recently announced that the flu vaccine will be available free to all children aged between 2 and 12 in the coming weeks. The vaccine will be given as drops on the tongue. We are awaiting further information on this and will let you know as soon as we get an update. It is more than likely that the vaccine will be given in the schools so as to avoid thousands of families descending on GPs.

Use of Face masks:

- It is currently not recommended in Ireland for children under 13 to wear face masks as a mitigation strategy against the transmission of the coronavirus. It is currently the opinion of public health that their use, especially among young children, has the potential to cause more harm than good.
- If a parent wishes their child to wear a mask, this will be permitted. The use of a visor instead will be recommended.

Children's learning spaces:

- All excess furniture will be removed from the classroom where possible so as to provide additional space.
- All staff will reconfigure their classrooms to ensure a one metre distance between pupils where possible. Pupils will be organised into pods within the classroom. We will not be using Perspex partitions to section our tables at present.
- Classes will be organised into bubbles and interaction between classes outside of the bubble is not to take place.

- Resources that can be easily cleaned will be used and toys and materials that are difficult to clean e.g. dress up clothes or soft toys during this temporary Covid-19 emergency will not to be used.
- Pupils will hand sanitise or wash hands as they enter and leave the classroom, before eating, after coming in from the yard, before and after using equipment, playing with toys etc and using the bathrooms.
- Pupils will not be allowed to share materials/resources and coats will be stored on the back of their seats.
- Toilet breaks will be staggered.
- The toilets will be disinfected after use by a member of staff at break times.
- Additional time will be spent by the hygiene staff in cleaning the school each day.
- Children attending resource teaching will be removed in their bubble groups from the classroom and taught in the school gym. This is to ensure that the children are not crowding in on each other within a small classroom.

Key facts for Parents on COVID -19:

COVID - 19 is a new illness that can affect the lungs and airways and is caused by a new virus called the Coronavirus.

Coronavirus is spread in sneeze or cough droplets. To infect you, it has to get from an infected person's nose or mouth into your eyes, nose or mouth. This can be direct or indirect (on hands, objects, surfaces). If you come into close contact with someone who is shedding the virus and who is coughing or sneezing or if you touch - with your hands - surfaces or objects that someone who has the virus has coughed or sneezed on, and then touch your mouth, nose or eyes without having washed your hands thoroughly you may contract the virus.

As COVID-19 is a new illness, we are still learning about how easily the virus spreads from person to person and how to control it, so it is important to keep up to date and make sure you are using the most up to date guidance available. This information is available from the following links:

- HSE-HPSC: <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/>
- HSE Hub: <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>

- Department of Health: <https://www.gov.ie/en/news/7e0924-latest-updates-on-covid-19-coronavirus/>

COVID-19 can be a mild or severe illness. Severe illness is much more common in older people (especially older than 70) and in people vulnerable for other reasons. Severe illness is much less common in children and young adults in good health. (See below)

The most common symptoms of Covid 19 are:

- Cough - this can be any kind of cough, usually dry but not always
- Fever - high temperature over 38 degrees Celsius
- Shortness of Breath
- Breathing Difficulties
- Lack of smell.

Symptomatic people appear to be most infectious for other people in the early days after symptoms begin. Infection can also spread from people in the day or two before they get symptoms and it can spread from some people who get an infection but have no symptoms or such mild symptoms that they take little notice of them (asymptomatic spread). People are no longer infectious for other people 14 days after they have developed symptoms.

Best practice for Parents and Pupils:

In order to prevent the spread of the virus -

- if you have been in contact with someone who is displaying any COVID-19 symptoms
- If you have coughed or sneezed
- if you were in contact with someone who has a fever or respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing)
- if you have been on public transport,
- if you have been in a crowd (especially an indoor crowd)
- if you have handled animals or animal waste
- If you move from one room to another room or from inside to outside areas

- If you have physical contact with a child from another group other than their own group
- if your hands are dirty
- when you arrive and leave buildings including your home or anyone else's home
- After using the toilet
- Before having a cigarette or vaping before and after eating
- Before and after preparing food
- Before and after eating your own food - breaks/lunches
- After assisting a child to use the toilet or using the toilet themselves
- After contact with bodily fluids (runny nose, spit, vomit, blood, faeces)
- After cleaning tasks

You must - Wash your hands with soap and water (which is the best method to get rid of germs) and or use a hand sanitiser

You must -Practice good respiratory hygiene: that is, when coughing and sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue - discard tissue immediately into a closed bin and clean your hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.

You must - Maintain social or physical distancing: that is, leave at least 2 metres (6 feet) distance between yourself and other people where possible, particularly those who are coughing, sneezing and have a fever.

Must not engage in handshaking or hugging

Must avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth - if you touch your eyes, nose or mouth with your contaminated hands, you can transfer the virus from the surface to yourself

Keep your hands in good condition. Moisturise them often. Any basic product that is not perfumed or coloured is OK