

*Scoil Naomh Mearnóg,
Bóthar na Trá,
Portmearnóg,
Co. Átha Cliath*



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24th August 2021

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I hope you all had a lovely summer. Preparations for the school return are well underway here at St. Marnock's NS. We are looking forward to welcoming your children back to school on **Thursday 26th August**. We are also particularly looking forward to welcoming our new pupils starting in Junior Infants and in other classes on that day.

I am attaching our school's **Back to School Plans** which are similar to those we had in operation during the last school year as part of our school's Covid-19 Response Plan. Please read these documents carefully as they provide details of your children's arrival and dismissal times together with information regarding where they need to enter and exit the building each day. We understand that some children may still be unsure of where to go on their first day back in their new classes but please do not be concerned about this as there will be staff available at all entry points to the school to help them find their way on Thursday 26th August.

The attached **Back to School Plans** also outline important requirements with regard to health and safety guidelines and minimising the risk of Covid-19 entering our school. We request that all parents follow these guidelines very carefully to safeguard the health and safety of our school community. The Department of Education has also issued an updated Covid-19 Response Plan last week. This is very similar to our previous Covid-19 Response Plan but it also contains some updated guidance which schools are required to adopt in relation to continuing to minimise the risk of Covid-19. I am attaching this document with this email for your convenience and it will also be available to view on our website www.stmarnocksns.ie Please also refer to our website for some other useful links provided for parents by the Department of Education in relation to Covid-19.

As many of you are already aware, the Department of Education require that all parents complete and sign the **Return to the Educational facility form** in advance of their children's return to school. We request that parents email the completed form directly to your child's new class teacher by **Wednesday 25th August**. For your convenience, this form is available from our website www.stmarnocksns.ie under the tab **STUDENT ABSENCE FORMS** and under the link **RETURN TO SCHOOL ONLINE DECLARATION**. Please remember to complete and return this form as soon as possible. **We must have this form in advance of your child's return to school to protect the health and safety of all our pupils and staff.**

PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD INTO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE FEELING UNWELL or if the following circumstances apply:

- If they are close contacts of a person with COVID-19, are awaiting a test or are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19
- If they are identified by the HSE as a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 or if they live with someone who has symptoms of the virus
- If they have travelled outside of Ireland, please refer to latest Government advice by clicking [here](#)

If you are in any doubt whether you should send your child to school or not, please err on the side of caution (Please refer to the HSPC Isolation Quick Guide for Parents under the **STUDENT ABSENCE FORMS** tab on our school's website).

We strongly urge all parents to continue to comply with the important Covid-19 health and safety guidelines of not congregating on or near the school grounds, of practising social distancing and wearing a face mask at all times when accompanying your children to and from school and when on our school grounds.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

