

# St. Patrick's National School

Edmonton, Killucan, Co. Westmeath Roll Number: 08100U Tel: 044 93 74411

Dear Parents.

Thankfully the school has fully reopened and I believe all is running smoothly. Thank you for your cooperation in making this happen! The learning environment has altered compared to this time last year. Class teachers are returning the children slowly to the work level expected in primary school. This is a slow and delicate process and lots of emphasis is being placed on SPHE, Mindfulness and calming techniques. The children are happy coming into school each day and after the prolonged closure this is most important!

## **Drop Off and Collection**

Thank you for abiding by the staggered drop off times. This process is working very well. Please continue to move as far down the drop off zone as possible before children alight from the car. Also, **please ensure that collection time is adhered to by whomever is collecting your child.** Teachers have other responsibilities following the school day and waiting for late collection has knock on delays.

Thank you to all parents that have abided by health guidelines by keeping children at home that are unwell. Print off and display the HSE poster I sent home by Aladdin a few weeks ago. This provides very clear guidance on when you should/should not send a child into school. It's always best to err on the side of caution in this current environment.

## **Late arrival/early collection etc.**

If you arrive at school late or are collecting your child early please call the school phone from the entrance gate. A member of staff will meet you there. If you enter the school you must complete the Contact Tracing book. Please message the school prior to early collections.

## **Return to School Declaration Form**

New guidelines issued to schools request that parents must complete a Return to School Declaration (similar to the form completed by children/parents attending GAA training) no matter the reason why a child was absent from school. When a child returns from **ANY ABSENCE**. The link for this form is [here](#). A copy of this form will also be available on the [Covid-19 section of the school website](#). Please think about how you intend to

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complete this form prior to your child returning to school. This form will be in operation from Thursday 24th September i.e. if your child is returning to school on/after this Thursday you must complete the form.

Children must remain at home if they have travelled into Ireland from a country not on the current Green List. The school has the right to refuse admission when it is aware that the quarantine period has not been followed.

## County Photos

School photos will take place outdoors this year under a marquee/tent being organised by County Photos. Friday 25th September from 9.20 a.m. If class photos take place it will be under strict guidelines and if I am not satisfied with the procedures class photos will be postponed. Individual photos and family photos will be taken as normal. Children will visit the pop up tent pod by pod/family group by family group. As per previous years there is no pressure to purchase anything!

## Euromillions

The current syndicate will end on 26th October 2020. Current winnings are approx. €40. This will be topped up to €100. A live draw will take place soon to choose the name of the winning syndicate member and a member of the Parents' Assoc. will be present to draw the winning name.

The next syndicate will begin on October 27th 2020. Tickets to purchase and sell to family, neighbours, work colleagues etc. will start arriving home next week. Three tickets are sent to each family in the hope that three can be sold. We are very aware of financial constraints at present so we always encourage you to find possible syndicate members outside of your family unit and area eg. work colleagues, past pupils living abroad etc. All funds raised will be used to provide the best we can for the school and our soon to be completed facilities.

As tickets are sold we ask that you return them into the school in a clear plastic bag. These bags will then be collected while still abiding by public health guidelines.

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## ***Build Update***

Following a site meeting this week the extension to the front of the school will be ready for moving into the week beginning 16th November. The two new classrooms will be ready for moving into the week of the Christmas holidays. The removal of prefabs and laying of new tarmac will commence in January. The new pitch to the rear of the school will be reseeded and hopefully ready for use in Spring.

## ***Shoe laces***

Tying of shoelaces is still an issue. If your child cannot tie their own laces please ensure they wear footwear with velcro.

Sincerely,

Martin Hanly

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