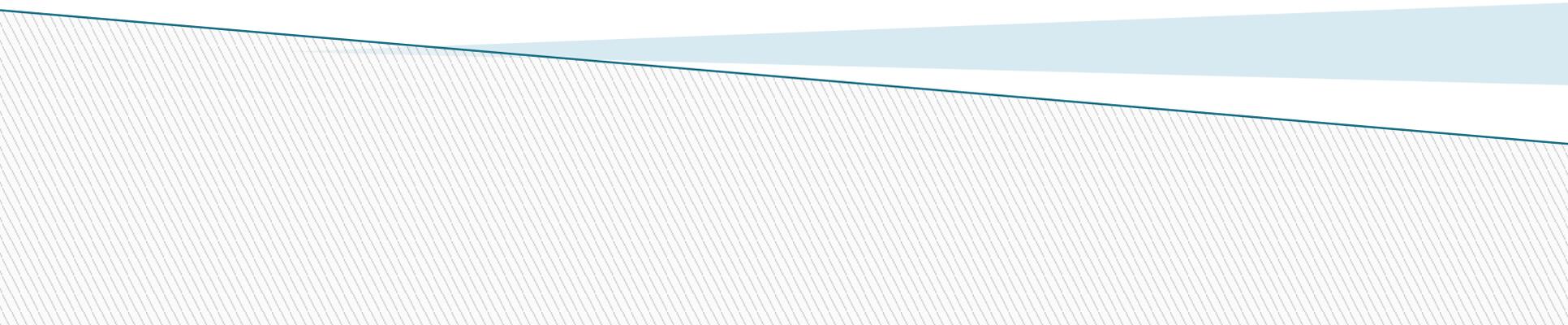


# **Re-opening Holy Trinity National School September 2020**

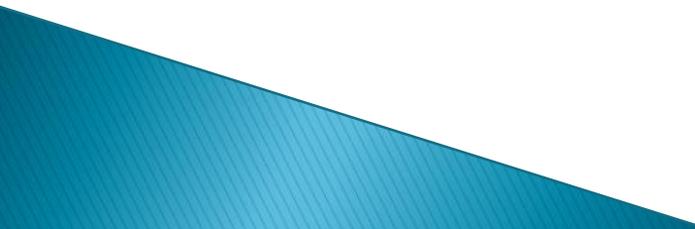
Information for Parents and Pupils



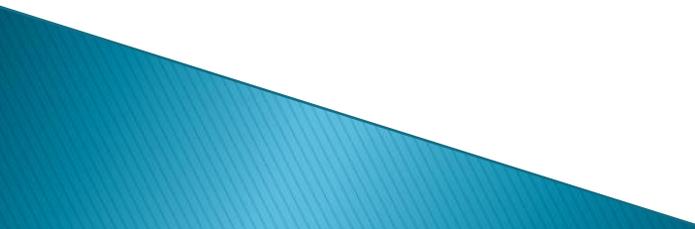
# Our Plan

- ▶ This presentation details our plan in the context of the document: Reopening Our Schools – The Roadmap for the Full Return to School, published by the Department of Education and Skills, 27 July 2020.
- ▶ This document is available at:  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b264b-roadmap-for-the-full-return-to-school/>

# This PowerPoint covers:

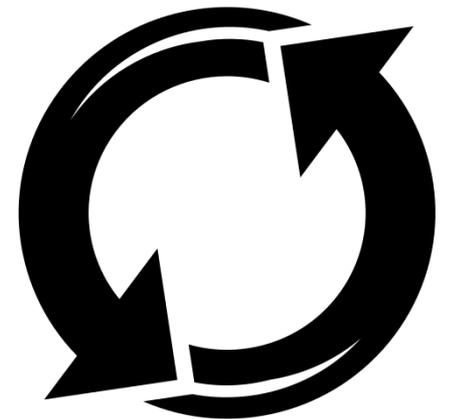
- ▶ Lead worker representatives
  - ▶ Our approach
  - ▶ Our plan
  - ▶ Our enhanced cleaning regime
  - ▶ Class bubbles and physical distancing
- 

# Lead Worker Representatives

- ▶ The role of the lead worker representative is to liaise with school staff and management in relation to Covid –19 matters
  - ▶ The following people have been appointed to this role: Caroline Walsh and Julie Walsh.
  - ▶ A Covid committee has also been established. This is made up of the Principal, Deputy, teachers, special needs assistants and office staff.
- 

# Our Approach

- ▶ This is an evolving situation. We will continue to follow Government and NPHEAT advice.
- ▶ For this reason we have taken the 4 r approach: Relax – Reflect – Refresh – Renew
- ▶ We ask that all parents /guardians keep up to date with texts, emails in the remaining short time ahead of the return of pupils.



# The Four R's Approach

Relax – Reflect – Refresh – Renew

- ▶ It is essential that we have a calm and relaxed approach. Children can feed off our anxieties. We need to make a conscious effort to be aware of this.
- ▶ As a school we will reflect our procedures and plans on an ongoing basis. Staff, parents/guardians and pupils will be given opportunities to express their thoughts as well.
- ▶ We will then seek to refresh and renew our approach as appropriate.

# Current Public Health Advice

## Key Points from Reopening Our Schools

The measures set out in the Public Health Advice are “aimed at risk minimization of COVID-19, for young people, teachers, other staff, their families and the wider community, recognizing the importance of education for health and well-being ...”

Control of COVID-19 in schools is predicated on two general recommendations:

1. Minimising the risk of introduction of COVID-19 into the school community; and
2. Managing the risk of spread if introduced through:
  - ▶ Regular hand hygiene;
  - ▶ Maintaining physical distancing;
  - ▶ Application of respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette; and
  - ▶ Environmental hygiene



**We can only mitigate  
risk, we cannot  
eliminate it.**

# Symptoms of Covid 19

Common symptoms of coronavirus include:

- ▶ a fever (high temperature – 38 degrees Celsius or above)
- ▶ a cough – this can be any kind of cough, not just dry
- ▶ shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- ▶ loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- ▶ It can take up to 14 days for symptoms to show.

# Handwashing Video to be shown to parents/guardians and pupils

- ▶ Awaiting video from DES

# Themes in relation to Reopening our Schools

**A Balanced Approach** “One of the key challenges for schools during this pandemic is to balance the need for a practical and sensible level of caution with the need to provide a supportive environment for pupils/students and where teachers feel able to engage with pupils in a way that supports their learning”.

**Apply Common Sense** “An atmosphere of fear and an overwhelming preoccupation with infection and hygiene can be harmful to teachers and pupils and to the quality of the educational experience without materially reducing the risk of infection beyond what can be achieved with a common-sense approach”.

**Create Awareness** “A heightened awareness by staff, parents and children (where age appropriate) is required so that they know how to protect themselves and each other and how to recognise and report symptoms of COVID-19 infection”.

# Themes in relation to Reopening our Schools..... Continued

- ▶ Do everything practical to avoid introduction of COVID-19 into the school “The most critical part of managing the risks of COVID-19 related to schools is doing everything practical to avoid introduction of COVID-19 into the school. If the infection is not introduced it cannot spread. The risk of introduction is related to how common the infection is in the community served by the school at a given time. If the infection is uncommon in the community then the likelihood of introduction is much lower”.
- ▶ Stay at home if unwell **“No person (child, teacher or parent) should attend an educational setting if unwell or any members of their household are unwell with symptoms consistent with COVID-19”.**
- ▶ Keep doing the key measures to keep us all safe “Social (Physical) distancing, hand hygiene and good respiratory etiquette should be observed by all (children, teachers, parents and visitors)”.

# Holy Trinity Covid Response Plan

The Holy Trinity Covid Response Plan is aimed at preventing the introduction and spread of Covid-19 in the school environment.

- ▶ **Reducing the chance of introduction** ..it is critical that **people stay at home if unwell**. Nobody should go to school if they are unwell or any members of their household are unwell with symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- ▶ **There will be restricted access to Holy Trinity for persons other than staff and pupils, and for essential purposes.** A detailed log of all visitors will be maintained. Parents/guardians are asked to refrain from coming to the school other than by appointment.
- ▶ **The Office will not accept items from parents/guardians for delivery to pupils (lunch, water bottles etc.).** These may be dropped in a container at the front of the school office in the porch/lobby area at pupils/parent own risk.

# Covid Response Plan continued

Reducing the chance of spread

Holy Trinity will:

- ▶ Support and promote good hand hygiene at all times and encourage respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.
- ▶ Have an enhanced cleaning regime.
- ▶ Ensure physical distancing on our campus and in our classrooms.

# Reducing the chance of the virus spreading

- ▶ All staff and pupils will receive training to reduce the possible spread of Covid-19.
- ▶ Good hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette will become part of the culture of our school.
- ▶ Hygiene will be emphasized in classes and to individual students as required.

However: Reopening our schools states that:

“An atmosphere of fear and an overwhelming preoccupation with infection and hygiene can be harmful to teachers and pupils and to the quality of the educational experience...”

# An Enhanced Cleaning Regime

- ▶ The school has been deep-cleaned over the summer. The school has also extended school cleaning hours. These will now take place from 5pm.
- ▶ All surfaces will be disinfected by cleaners at the end of each day. “High touch” areas such as door handles and rails will be cleaned throughout the day.
- ▶ The use of shared equipment including electronic equipment will be restricted.
- ▶ Practical subjects e.g. science will engage with experiments in accordance with advice as this emerges and in compliance with subject requirements.
- ▶ Pupils may not share stationery or equipment.
- ▶ Each class has been supplied with a Covid Cleaning basket e.g. Wipes, disinfectant ...etc.
- ▶ Hand sanitiser units have been installed outside our access points and outside every classroom and throughout our school
- ▶ We are also requesting that pupils from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class bring in their own personal hand sanitiser.

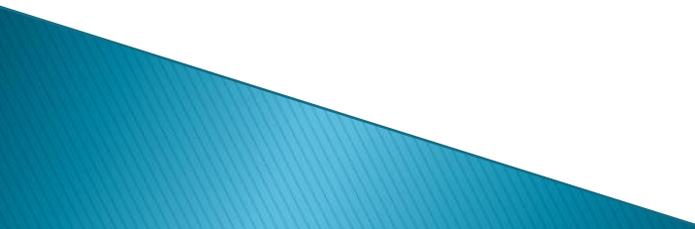


# Physical Distancing



- ▶ Classes from Junior Infants to Second class will operate with pods. Classes from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class will operate with 1 metre social distancing.
- ▶ Assemblies will take place online and will be shown in individual classrooms.
- ▶ A Split Break and Lunch system: Holy Trinity will operate a split break and lunch system for all year groups. Classes and adults primarily working within that bubble will take the same lunch break.
- ▶ Pupils will continue to eat in their classrooms.
- ▶ Classes will have a designated yard space. They will not be permitted to mix with other classes.

# Class bubbles

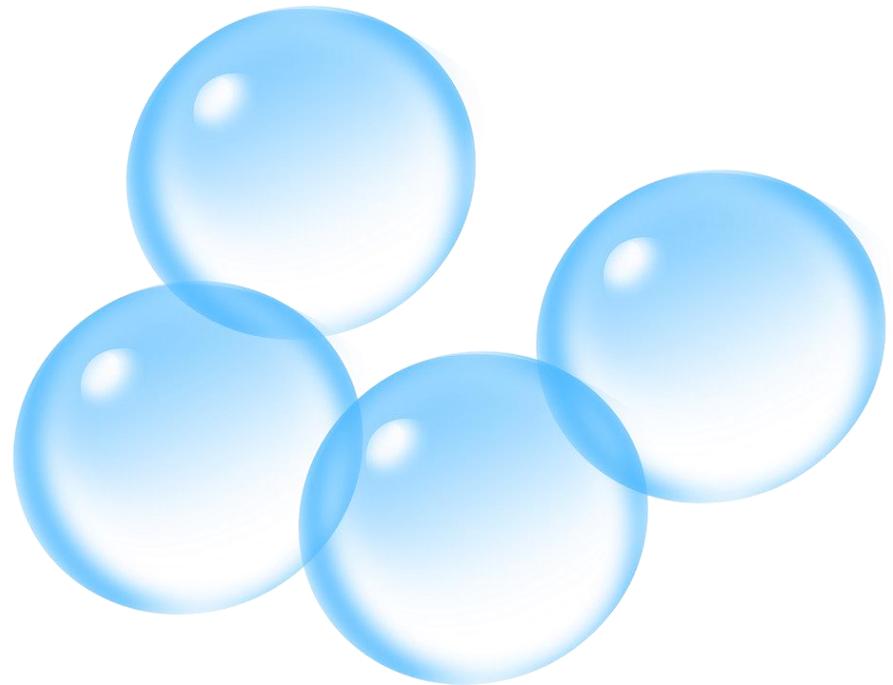
- ▶ Each class within the year group is a bubble.
  - ▶ Junior Infants Bubble
  - ▶ Senior Infants Bubble
  - ▶ 1st Class Bubble
  - ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Bubble
  - ▶ 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Bubble
  - ▶ 4<sup>th</sup> Class Bubble
  - ▶ 5<sup>th</sup> Class Bubble
  - ▶ 6<sup>th</sup> Class Bubble
- 
- A blue decorative triangle is located in the bottom-left corner of the slide, pointing towards the center.

# Arrival and Dismissal

- ▶ We have a staggered arrival and dismissal plan. Please see email sent in relation to this. It is important that pupils are on time.

# Physical Distancing

- ▶ All Classes remain in bubble for day.
- ▶ Pupils will eat their lunch in their classroom
- ▶ Pupils will have a designated yard area with their bubble for playtime.



# My role as a parent/guardian

- ▶ Promote a relaxed approach to the return to school for your child. Tell them about the changes. Mr. Tobin will provide a short assembly before school starts outlining our changes.
- ▶ Know the symptoms of Covid. Keep your child at home and contact GP if you or any of your family members are displaying symptoms.
- ▶ Inform the school of high anxiety or if your child is in the high risk category.
- ▶ Maintain physical distancing during pick up and drop off.
- ▶ Keep up to date with texts/emails and our school website.

# Our next PowerPoint will cover:

- ▶ Lunchtimes
  - ▶ Uniforms
  - ▶ Class organisation and layout
  - ▶ Use of masks and PPE
  - ▶ Classroom organisation and layout
  - ▶ Wellbeing
  - ▶ Return to school
  - ▶ Curriculum
  - ▶ Pupils with additional needs
  - ▶ Learning in the event of a school closure
- 

# Closing thought

Sometimes the best  
thing that you can do  
is not think. not  
wonder. not imagine.  
not obsess. Just  
Breathe. and have faith  
that everything will  
work out for the best.

Textgram ©