

What are the important things parents and children need to know?

- St. Joseph's GNS will still be the caring and welcoming school that the children have always known. There will be a few changes to procedures and timetables so that we can make sure we prevent the spread of Covid-19
- See attached timetable for new arrival and home times.
- Children will not need a schoolbag for September
- We recommend that each child bring her own bottle of hand sanitiser. This will stay in school.
- Children do not need to wear masks
- Children must be kept at home if they display any symptoms of Covid-19
- You must notify the school if your daughter is travelling abroad. She must quarantine for 14 days if she goes to any country that is not on the Green list.
- PLEASE MAKE SURE THE SCHOOL HAS YOUR CORRECT PHONE NUMBER
- All children will be given their own books, workbooks, pens, pencils, colours etc. Children from 3rd to 6th can bring their own colours but they must remain in the classroom.
- Children will not share any items in the classroom as much as is possible.
- The girls will still get their lunch each day.
- You will still come in through the same gate but the pathway is divided into entry/exit path
- Children will still wear their uniform/tracksuit but the girls must change their clothes as soon as they go home.
- Paper Notes will no longer be sent home. A text will be sent or more detailed information will be put on our school website.
- Parents cannot come into the school unless by appointment. Parents must wear a face mask if they are coming into the school. Adults are advised to wear a face covering when coming into the yard.
- All staff are trained in all new safety guidelines and procedures and all staff will wear face coverings
- Our focus for September is to get the children settled back to school and back into the routine of learning
- Please keep an eye on our school website for updates
- We will review all our procedures and timetables at the end of September and we will as always follow all guidance and advice from the Department of Education and HSE.

How can you prepare your daughter for the return to school?

- Chat to her about what to expect
- Get back into a good routine. Early night, healthy dinners and a walk in the evening!
- Ask her how is she feeling about going back to school. What is she looking forward to? What might be hard? What do you think will be ok?
- Remind her that school will still be the same but there will just be some new ways of doing things to make sure everyone stay safe
- Reassure her and remind her of all the things she enjoys in school
- Speak in a positive way about school. If you are speaking about your concerns in front of your daughter she will pick up on this and may become anxious too
- Look after yourself! The coronavirus pandemic has put huge strain on parents. Your child is going back to school now and you can be sure that we will take very good care of her. Take some time to look after yourself each day and do something you enjoy!