



# Scoil Phobail Charraig Uí Leighin

## Carrigaline Community School

**October 2nd 2020**

### **Update to Parents and Guardians**

I wish to update you on a number of matters now that we are up and running. Teachers, students and all staff are glad to be back in school and we will continue to work together to make it a positive experience for everyone. Since the start of term students have been learning from their teachers and re-establishing themselves socially. With this in mind I direct you to the following:

#### **Creating space for students at break times**

You will be aware that we have restructured our timetable completely to facilitate a split break and lunch time for students. This means that we only ever have half of our student population on break at any one time. This leaves more space for those who are on break. The guidelines are for groups to assemble outside, rather than in an enclosed space.

Since early August we have been investigating the possibility of getting a marquee to enhance the amount of covered space we have for lunch and break time. This has been a long process involving our Management Body ACCS, an onsite visit from an Engineer, meeting fire regulations, along with the sourcing of a company that can meet our specific requirements. The marquee has been erected this week. This will provide an additional covered area for students to eat at lunch and break time. We are also investigating further options in relation to outdoor coverings to try and ensure even further possibilities for adequate social distancing. However, if the weather is dry we will be actively encouraging students to go outside, in line with the guidelines.

#### **Social distancing at small and big breaks**

There is excellent compliance with the wearing of face coverings, hand sanitisation and social distancing within the school building.

We are finding that this does not hold as well during break times. Teenagers naturally congregate when outside. Teachers are continually reminding pupils to step back and/or put back on a face covering. I would appreciate it if you could remind your daughter/son, that in the event of a positive test result from a member of the school community, HSE tracing personnel will seek to identify close personal contacts. Close contact can mean spending more than 15 minutes of face-to-face contact within 2 metres of someone who has Covid-19, indoors or outdoors.

I encourage you to ask your daughter/son not to congregate with their friends at the local garages, Lidl etc during lunch break. Such gatherings go against public health advice and can be upsetting to other members of our community who also use these establishments.

## **Cold Weather**

***Room ventilation is a key preventative measure in this pandemic.*** Classroom windows will be open in all weather. Students will also be encouraged to go outside more often at break times. We will not be permitting students to wear non uniform hoodies/jackets/coats etc inside the premises. If you feel your child(ren) will not be warm enough they should wear additional layers underneath their uniform (please note these should not be visible - no hoodies inside the school jumper). If it happens that they are then too warm during the day, then they can use the bathrooms to remove an under layer t-shirt etc. We are being more flexible this year with regard to uniforms, in that students are permitted to also wear their PE jumper and or the school coat over their regular school uniform while in the building. This gives them more options and additional layers that can be worn either over or under the standard uniform. The school uniform creates equality between students.

## **Face Coverings**

Over the last few weeks we've noticed an increase in the number of students arriving to school having forgotten their mask. We would ask that parents/guardians ensure that students have spare masks with them in their school bag each day. No-one is allowed into the building without a face mask.

## **Parent Teacher Meetings - Monitoring/Measuring student progress**

Please be aware that since we cannot currently hold Parent-Teacher Meetings a *Progress Report* will be issued via VShare at the October Mid-Term. Many subject teachers will carry out in-class assessments in advance of this. Students will be notified about any assessments in advance by their teacher. The regular timing and structure of our 'Christmas exams' has been changed this year in order to maximise class contact time. Exams for Years 3, 5 & 6 will take place on the week starting Mon 16th November. Assessments for Years 1, 2 & 4 will begin on the week starting Mon 30th Nov. Again, teachers will advise students on what the exams will entail and how best to prepare for them.

## **Google Classroom**

Please ensure that your son/daughter are connected to a "Google Classroom" for each of their subjects. This is an essential part of how we are operating in school this year. As well as individual subject teachers, Year Heads are using Google Classroom to communicate with their year groups.

***Never before has our school motto of "Together we achieve" been more relevant. Our goal is to keep our school community safe at all times. We have had to respond to very unusual circumstances and this newsletter outlines some of those responses. All of our individual actions will dictate the success of our school in the current climate. It is VITAL to reiterate to the school community that following the basic guidelines of social distancing, respiratory etiquette, regular hand washing and wearing of face masks is the key to staying safe. Complacency is not an option. We can all tire at times of following the basic guidelines but it is of the utmost importance that we do.***

***It is important also to maintain a level of normality throughout the school day. The correct wearing of school uniform, respect for all and an empathetic attitude is necessary.***

***I would appreciate it if you can work through the contents of this newsletter with your child. Thank you all for your cooperation and I hope that you all manage to stay safe and well.***

***Kind regards,***

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Burke", written over a horizontal line.

***Paul Burke  
Principal,  
Secretary, Board of Management.***