



Piltown National School

Roll Number I7357M/Telephone 051-643498

Principal: Mr. Philip Kennedy
Deputy Principal: Miss Ita Bolger

**Principal's
Newsletter to Parents
24th August, 2021**



Dear Parents / Guardians,

I hope you are having a very enjoyable and safe summer. I wish to update you in relation to our re-opening next week. The Department of Education and Skills has advised us that many of the Covid-19 Guidelines from the last school year will apply for the 2021-2022 academic year.

All children are due to return to school on Tuesday, August 31st. The same routine for drop-off and collection will apply this year. Children who travel by car can be dropped off safely at the 'drop-off zone' between 9.10am and 9.30am. Walkers and cyclists can enter the main gate at the pedestrian crossing from 9.10am. We remind all cyclists that helmets must be worn for safety. Collection for Junior Infants/Senior Infants remains at 2pm and at 3pm for the rest of the classes. Unfortunately, we are not permitted to use a classroom to gather the children on a wet day so we remind parents to provide rain gear for children who avail of the 'drop-off zone'.

Junior Infant parents may enter the school grounds and park on the basketball court for the first day only (Tuesday, August 31st). Junior Infants will be collected at 12noon for the first two weeks to allow them a settling-in period. Thereafter, Junior Infants will be collected at 2pm. After this, we ask you to drop the children as per usual at the main gate or drop-off zone. All walkers should be collected across the road from the main gate at the pedestrian crossing. Please remember, it is not safe to collect children who are walking from the drop-off zone.

Our Book Rental Scheme is in operation this year again and is excellent value. Pupils will use boxes in their classrooms to store stationary and books. These boxes are in the school presently. Any stationary listed on your child's booklist as well as books that are not included in the Book Rental Scheme may be brought to school on the first day, Tuesday, August 31st.

Lunchboxes/bags may be brought in and out of school each day. Please ensure that all uniforms and items are labelled clearly to avoid them getting lost. Children may use the school footballs at break-times. To ensure minimum mixing of pods, we will continue with staggered breaks this year. This means there will be a maximum of 5 classes on the yard at once.

The annual payment for Book Rental, Art & Craft and Photocopying materials is as follows; Junior/Senior Infants: €70 · 1st to 6th Class: €90. This year, we have set up online payments which will avoid cash coming in and out of school. To make a payment, simply visit our new website (www.piltownns.ie) and click on the 'Payments' tab (from Friday, August 27th). If you do not wish to use this online feature, you can send the cash to school or complete a bank transfer.

As of now, we do not know if we are permitted to engage in extra activities such as Swimming , Red Kettle Theatre and Drumming but once we do, we will let you know.

Confirmation and Communions from the last school year are due to take place in term one and we will notify you of dates once they are confirmed.

The school will have extra cleaning hours again this year in line with Covid-19 requirements. The school has been deep cleaned during the summer and will continue to be thoroughly cleaned and sanitised each day.

We are continuing to use ClassDojo as our main communication app. If you need to arrange an alternative pick-up time, please phone Triona, our school secretary at 051-643498. This is a better option than contacting the teacher as the teacher may not always see the message during teaching hours.

We warmly welcome three new members of staff to our school family for the coming year. Triona Moloney, our secretary, Marie Phelan, our 3rd/4th class teacher and Yvonne Sinnott, our job-share Special Needs Assistant.

Our new building is progressing well and is due to be completed and ready for handover in early November.

It has been a number of weeks since we have all been at school together now so we ask you to remind the children of the importance of a good hand-washing routine, coughing etiquette and social distancing. As per last year, if your child displays any symptoms of Covid-19, please do not send them to school and contact your G.P. for advice.

Below are some useful links to help parents with the return to school.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/#returning-to-school>

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/0cf46-resources-and-materials-for-parentsguardians-and-for-students-on-returning-to-school-multi-lingual/>

We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday, August 31st. If I can be of any assistance to you at any stage, please contact me through the office.

Yours faithfully,



Philip Kennedy, Principal