

Gorey Educate Together National School

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Principal: Raymond Swan Deputy Principal: Imelda Wright Assistant Principal I: Mairéad Jordan

14th August 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I wish to share the following practical information with you, in advance of the new school year.

Kind regards,

Raymond Swan
Principal

Thursday 27th and Friday 28th August: Orientation Days

2020 is not a typical 'Back to School' year. We want to give the children, plus one parent or guardian, the opportunity to visit us, to meet the teacher & SNA and see the classroom before classes get underway. 'See that many of your favourite things about our school are still the same, with some important changes.'

The visiting parent must wear a face covering. (School staff will be wearing a visor or/and a mask as well.) It is not recommended that primary school children wear face coverings.

Please keep your visit short, (5 minutes in the classroom.) Social distancing must be adhered to. Maximum of 2 families in any classroom at any one time. Please do not all arrive at the beginning of your time slot, visits need to be spread out over the hour. Staff on duty outside the school building will help manage numbers entering the school.

Please remember that from Monday 31st, access to our school building will be for pupils and staff only. (We are sorry, but parents will no longer have access until further notice.)

Visiting us on the 27th or 28th is not compulsory. We are offering these visits as one way of helping the children settle back into school after the long closure.

Timetable:	Thursday 27th	Friday 28th
09.00-10.00	Senior Infants	Second Class
10.00-11.00	First Class	Third Class
11.00-12.00	Fourth Class	Sixth Class
12.00-13.00	Fifth Class	

If you have more than 1 child attending our school, then please feel free to do all your classroom visits in one go, (all teachers will be available in their classrooms for all the above time slots.) Remember to stay apart from other families on our hallways and playgrounds, and in the classrooms. Again, a maximum of 2 families in any classroom at any one time.

Normal school times for Senior Infants – 6th Class from Monday 31st August: 08.50am – 1.30pm and 2.30pm.
(Some staggering of arrival and departure times to avoid crowds gathering around the school, see below.)

Junior Infants will have classes as follows, (as families already met the teachers last month)

Thursday 27 th :	10.00-12.00
Friday 28 th :	10.00-12.00
Monday 31 st -Friday 4 th :	08.50-12.00
From Monday 7 th September:	08.50-13.30

Always drop your Junior Infant to school staff on duty at the front of the building. Always collect the child from the teacher outside the school building.

The children in our Special Classes will have school as normal (08.50-13.30 and 14.30) from Thursday 27th August, (as they already transitioned back to school last month.)

This year drop off and collection will be to staff on duty at the side entrance to the school building.

If you would prefer for your child to only visit for a short time on Thursday 27th and/or Friday 28th, please let the teacher know in advance by email or Class Dojo. Again, drop off and collection will be outside the side entrance.

Morning Arrivals: We must avoid gathering in crowds on or near the school grounds. Families must socially distance from each other and from school staff. Please stand well back from doors and gates. Please be patient: every child will be well looked after.

Week 1, 'the settling in period': The children can arrive at school from 08.20-09.00. Please do not all arrive at 08.20! Arrivals need to be spread over the 40 minutes. The children will go straight to their classrooms, where they will be supervised by staff. (And staff will also be on duty at the front of the building.)

From Monday 7th September: We will narrow the above to 08.30am-9.00am.

The teachers will begin settling the classes at 8.50am. Lessons will begin at 9am.

Sorry, use of the ballcourt, etc. before school is not permitted until further notice.

Afternoon Departures: We must avoid gathering in crowds on or near the school grounds. Families must socially distance from each other and from school staff. (A list/map of pick-up points for the various classes will be provided next week.) Be patient: every child will be well looked after.

2.15pm (all year): Children using school buses and children who walk/cycle home will leave their classrooms. School staff will supervise the hallways and outside the school building, and we will help the children to find their buses. Buses will leave the school at 2.25pm. No cars should drive onto the school grounds until the buses leave.

Week 1: 2.40pm: Children whose family names begin with letters A-L should be collected from outside the school. From Monday 7th September, this will change to 2.30pm daily. Please do not come to the school until your child's collection time.

Week 1: 2.55pm: Children whose family names begin with letters M-Z should be collected from outside the school. From Monday 7th September, this will change to 2.45pm daily. Please do not come to the school until your child's collection time.

All children will be supervised by school staff (in their classrooms and/or outside the school) until they are collected by parents.

Sorry, families are no longer permitted to stay on the grounds of the school or to use the playgrounds, etc. until further notice.

After-School Supervision 1.30pm-2.30pm for Junior & Senior Infants who use the school buses will continue as normal. (The PE Hall will be used, and the children will be separated into their 4 Class Bubbles.) School staff will escort the infants to their buses.

We are sorry, but all other after-school activities and clubs (including chess club and homework club) are cancelled until further notice.

What will happen on school buses? Please read pages 33 and 34 of this document: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b264b-roadmap-for-the-full-return-to-school/> The school has no involvement in these arrangements: please contact Bus Eireann or the local bus company for your child's route.

School Supplies: Infection Control - 'Reducing the use of shared items.' 'Reducing the transfer of some items between home and school.' 'Keeping classrooms safe and tidy, and reducing the number of times that books, etc. are collected up and passed around.'

Every child will need Two Pencil Cases

Every child will need one pencil case that stays in school, filled with pencils/pens, eraser, sharpener, crayons/pencils (younger children) or pencils/markers (older children.)

Every child will also need a second separate pencil case/supplies for use at home.

The children will not share pencils, crayons, colouring pencils, etc.

Our teachers always have spare pencils and crayons. When these are given to a child, the child will keep them for their own use only.

Every child will need a Storage Box that stays in school

A4 size (for A4 pages/worksheets and schoolbooks.) Box should be approximately 9 inches/23cm high (no extra-large boxes, please) with a lid that the child can easily open.

The box will be kept under or near the child's table, for their books, copies, pencil case and any classroom item that the teacher assigns to that child, such as a paint brush.

Pencil case and storage box can be dropped to classrooms during next week's visits, or the children can bring them during the first week of school.

All the child's schoolbooks and copies are already in the classroom, as usual.

Home-School Communication will remain as important as ever.

Email and Class Dojo (and Aladdin Connect) will be emphasised. Teachers' details will be shared in the coming weeks. The Principal's weekly school newsletter will be shared with families via Aladdin Connect and the school website. (Other information letters will also be shared in this way.)

We are sorry, but there will be no face to face parent-teacher meetings until further notice. Again, please use email/Class Dojo/Aladdin Connect overall. Phone calls can also be arranged.

We are sorry, but there will be no Open Classroom events, concerts/shows, parent volunteers in our school building, school trips, etc. until further notice.

Other questions? Please ask us during next week's visits.



Example of a storage box for A4 schoolbooks and worksheets, as well as copies, pencil case, etc.

Any classroom item that the teacher assigns to the child (such as a paintbrush) will also be kept in the box.)

Your child's box doesn't need to be see-through (or made of plastic,) but it needs to be easy to clean (children will wipe them down) and easy for the child to open and close.

