



Lurga National School

Gort, Co Galway



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Plan for Reopening of Lurga National School

We look forward to welcoming back all our children on August 27th! (Our new Junior Infants may visit the school on Wednesday 26th (9.30 – 10.30am). The Department of Education and Skills has issued guidelines for the safe reopening of all schools. The staff of Lurga NS has been working hard since the guidelines were published and some changes have been and will be made to life in our school as a result.

Morning Arrival:

Parents/Guardians are reminded that the (very busy!) car park is a set down area only at this time and at the 2 o'clock and 3 o'clock collection times. In line with the guidelines you are asked to drop/collect your child as quickly as possible and not to enter the school grounds. Junior Infants, Senior Infants, First Class and Second Class will walk in the new entrance at the right of the school wall (as you face the school). Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Classes will walk in the existing school gate. Please advise third to Sixth Classes to socially distance when walking in.

Each class (Pod) will have a designated area to assemble in a line outside their classroom door. Children in different classes (pods) will not be mixing inside the school building as per the guidelines.

Unfortunately, parents are not permitted to enter the school grounds from now until the guidelines change. (The exception to this will be on Wednesday 26th for the parents of the new Junior Infants)

Covid-19 Lead Worker Representative

Mrs. Deirdre Canny

Mrs. Canny will have responsibility for the plan and be the link person for the school community and Principal/ BOM.

The Deputy Covid-19 Lead Worker Representative is Miss Louise Lynch.

School Groups

To minimise contact between pupils, the school will operate based on four groups for arrival, dismissal, movement through the school and breaks as follows:

JI/S1

1st/ 2nd

3rd/4th

5th/ 6th

Within these four groups, each class will be separated and will not be mixing, in so far as possible. The arrangements to minimise this are set out here.

Allocated Doors – Arrival and Dismissal

The following classes must use these doors only when entering and exiting the building:

Junior Infants and Senior Infants to use the Main door between Mrs. Fogarty's and Ms. Lynch's room.

First and Second Classes to use Ms. Lynch's Fire Exit Door behind the school.

Third and Fourth Classes to use Mr. Nolan's Fire Exit Door behind the school.

Fifth and Sixth Classes to use Mrs. Canny's Fire Exit Door at the front of the school.

Breaks

There will be four play zones. Each of the four groups will be allocated a play zone. The children will rotate between play zones regularly.

Assemblies and General Information for children.

The Principal will conduct these in each individual class.

Minimising Visitors

No adults should enter the building other than school staff. All meetings will take place over phone by prior appointment, by contacting Loretta on (091) 633118 or leaving a message on the school phone.

Parent/ Teacher Meetings

These typically take place in November. These may take place via phone/ zoom or be postponed. We will assess the situation closer to the time.

Illness

Parents must keep children at home if they display any Covid-19 Symptoms, available here, <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/symptoms.html>. Staff must not attend school if they display any symptoms. If a child displays symptoms at school he/she will be accompanied to the isolation room (the former staffroom) Parents/Guardians will be asked to collect them, immediately.

Isolation Room while awaiting collection

Any child who displays Covid-19 symptoms will be accompanied to the former Staff Room beside the Junior Room. This will be the waiting area for the sick child and for the parents to collect. Chairs will be placed there and child will be supervised.

Nobody else may enter this area while a child is awaiting collection. The room will be sanitised after the child leaves.

School Hall

P.E. will only take place outside. The hall will not be used for sports as it is too small.

Hygiene

Wall hung sanitiser dispensers have been installed throughout the school e.g. at each entrance, in each classroom. Each teacher also has a hand sanitizer on his/her desk.

Disinfectant wipes have been purchased. These will be used to wipe down the photocopier, i-pads etc...after use by each individual using it. A packet will be given to each teacher should they need to wipe anything.

Disinfectant sprays have also been purchased.

All staff and children must sanitise every time they enter a room.

It is intended that a cleaner will be present each day after school. We await DES Guidance on recommended cleaning. They will spray all common touch areas, refill soaps and sanitisers at this time.

Support Teachers

All support teachers to sanitise on entering school and between groups. Visers or masks must be worn when in close contact with children.

Office

Only Loretta and Principal can enter secretary's office. All communication from parents should be via note or phone until the Guidelines suggest otherwise.

Lunches

Parents must ensure children come with lunches etc. to prevent adults coming to school during the day. No sharing of lunches/ drinks among children.

Photocopying.

Sterilised wipes to be left at the copiers – user to wipe copier after use.

Support Rooms, Class Teaching and Team Teaching

Class teachers and Support Teachers will still maintain as much a distance as possible while class teaching and team teaching. The Support Room is too small to accommodate some groups therefore the hall may also be used for support teaching. A timetable will be drawn up to facilitate this.

Staff Room

Staff must sanitise before entering. Teachers will maintain as much distance as possible from each other.

Books/ Copies

We await DES Guidance on handling of pupil copies and work books.

Temperature Checks

Parents check child's temperatures before school each day and do not send children if children have a high temperature. As per the guidelines staff will not be checking children's temperatures on arrival.

Deliveries

All deliveries including lunches must be left in the rain shelter. Deliveries must be planned when Loretta is present to take in the items. (9am to 12noon)

Training

We await the DES Training for teachers and staff.

P.E. Timetable

A P.E. Timetable will be completed as normal and relayed to you when we reopen.

Returning to Work

Three days before we reopen, staff must complete a Return to Work Form.

Professional Visitors including Sub Teachers

Adults entering the school will be minimised. Sometimes, they are necessary e.g. I.T. maintenance, school psychologist etc. They will be asked to sanitise, wear a visor and sign the 'return to work questions' noted above as well as the Contact Tracing Log.

First Aid

This will be administered as normal with staff wearing gloves/mask/visor worn. Gloves must be changed afterwards as per normal procedures.

Curriculum

All teachers will start from where the children are. Formal testing (Standardised Testing) will not take place immediately, as per the guidelines.

We understand that many children may feel anxious about the return to school regarding the Covid situation and/or where they feel they are at socially or academically. When we re-open we will be welcoming the children back and our focus will be child centred – to explore the children's experiences and feelings and to support them during the settling back time. The curriculum focus will be centred on Literacy and Numeracy and relevant aspects of Social Personal and Health Education and P.E.

It will be a busy time settling everybody back while managing the Covid situation to the best of our ability. Your patience and support will be, as ever, greatly appreciated as we all work together for the safe re-opening of Lurga National School.