

St. Helen's Junior National School, Portmarnock, Co. Dublin

SCOIL NAOMH LÉAN (SÓISEARACH), PORTMEARNÓG, CO. ÁTHA CLIATH

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25th August 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope that all families had a great summer break. I am sure the children are all very excited about starting school next **Tuesday 31st August**! As many of you will know the school has been undergoing an extensive Summer Works programme throughout the summer since the day the school closed for the holidays under the expertise of Sugrue Builders and their hardworking team. We are delighted with the works that have taken place to upgrade the electrics including lighting, the fire alarm system, our CCTV as well as a refurbishment of our ASD classes and facilities for the children in the Cabhair Centre. In addition to the new outdoor furniture that was purchased in June, Sugrue Builders have also designed and installed a fabulous astro space beside the library which will optimise outdoor learning and recreation for our young pupils. We have had lovely new flooring fitted in some of our classrooms by Frank Mc Gowan Ltd. New yard markings for both yards are also scheduled to take place in the next few weeks so all these improvements lend to a very exciting new school term and year!

In advance of your child starting school next Tuesday 31st, it is very important that you carefully read the attached ***Back to School Plans*** flyer. This flyer contains important information with regard to arrival and dismissal times, where classes enter and exit school, the school calendar etc. The documents attached also outline important requirements with regard to health and safety guidelines and minimising the risk of Covid-19 entering the school. We request that all guidelines are followed to safeguard the health and safety of our school community. I would ask everyone to familiarise yourself with our updated Logistics plan which outlines all control measures which have


been put in place around Covid-19. In accordance with our Covid-19 Response Plan, it is a Department of Education requirement that you complete the **Return to the Educational Facility form** on behalf of your child before they start school. This form can be completed via the Aladdin app. When parents/guardians do not comply and complete this form it is both very time consuming and disruptive to the running of the school. If you have any difficulty with this process, please notify our office on Tuesday 31st August. (secretary@sthelensjunior.com)

As we prepare to commence another school year we ask that all families continue to adhere to all Covid-19 health and safety guidelines of practising social distancing, not congregating on or near the school grounds/ avenue and wearing a face covering at all times when on the school grounds. Please refer to the attached HSPC links and HSE guidelines if you are unsure about whether or not to send your child to school. Hand sanitiser will continue to be provided throughout the day for all our pupils in school.

We ask that your child/ren arrive punctually at their designated arrival time each morning. We understand that some children may still be unsure of where to go on their first day back but please be assured that there will be several staff members at each entrance to the school to welcome our pupils as well as their class teacher who will meet them in the yard. Your child should wear their uniform or school tracksuit on Tuesday. **Please ensure that your child's school bag/ lunch box/ jumper/ tracksuit top/ jacket have their name on it.** All their books will be organised and stored in their classroom for Tuesday. Stationary including pencils, scissors, folders and crayons etc will be provided by the school. If you have any further concerns or questions in the meantime please contact myself on principal@sthelensjunior.com

We look forward to meeting you and the children next Tuesday 31st August.

Le gach dea-ghuí,



Lorna Lavin
Príomhoide