

Dear Parent / Guardian,

The BoM and the staff have been working hard to ensure a safe return to school for all pupils next week. Please read the following carefully.

School return date

The school will re-open on Wednesday the 26th of August.
Junior infant children will be the **only** children in school that day.

School will reopen **for all children** on Thursday the 27th of August

Class allocations and teacher allocations

Junior & senior infants	Ms Perkins
First & second class	Ms Swanton
Third & fourth class	Ms Daly
Fifth & sixth class	Mr. Hayes
SEN shared	to be appointed
Principal release teacher	to be appointed

Principal Release days

The minister for Education announced in early August that all teaching principals will receive one administration day per week to deal with the extra work associated with Covid-19 and the general day to day paper work that goes with running a school.

A shared cluster has been formed between the schools of Drimoleague Parish and a teacher will be appointed to cover these administration days.

Book rental and school levy

A reminder to parents of school levy, school insurance and book rental feedetails can be found on our website under booklists.

School equipment

Students need a separate pencil case for home and school.

School uniforms

There has been a lot of speculation regarding school uniforms in the media. There has been no guidance on uniforms, so the BOM have decided that its school uniforms as normal. We would advise that your child change out of the uniform after school and not wear the uniform to after school activities. Please ensure to wash the uniform regularly.

Spare clothes

Junior infants, senior infants, first & second class need to bring in a spare set of clothes in a labelled plastic bag in case of any accident in school or in the school yard.

Shoes

Children should have shoes with Velcro if they can't tie their own shoe laces.

School breaks

Small break 11.10 - 11.25

Big break 1.00 – 1.30

The school yard will be divided into four separate areas and classes will not mix with each other during break times.

Lunch boxes

Children need to be able to open their own lunch boxes and handle the contents within that lunch box independently. For example, teachers will not be able to cut up fruit, opening yogurts etc.

Children are not permitted to share lunches, share drinks etc.

Children should have sufficient water/drinks to last the day.

Drop off and collections

Drinagh National will **not** be staggering drop off and collections.

Your child should be dropped to school from 9.10am (no sooner as there is no supervision before this)

Each class (bubble) will be assigned an area in the school yard. When dropped, they should go to their assigned area and wait for a teacher to accompany them into the building.

Under no circumstances should children wait at the front door.

At 3.00pm, the class teacher will take their class to predetermined area at the front of the school and release their class in a safe manner that doesn't allow children from different classes mix.

Drinagh National School appreciates your support as we try to safely reopen the school building. If at all possible we request you not to come onto the school grounds or into the school building unless it is essential. We appreciate that dropping off the Junior & Senior Infant pupils to their designated area in the yard is essential, but for the older pupils a drop off at the school gate is desirable. Working together we hope to be able to progress the reopening in as safe a manner as possible for all.

It is imperative that

- adults do not come within 2m of each other
- Parents do not try to have meetings with members of staff in the playground at drop-off and collection times – meetings between parents and teachers can only take place by prior arrangement. . (This may have to be more restrictive depending on guidance - it is quite possible that the recommendation will be via telephone.

On Thursday morning 27th of August, the school will open from 8.55am to allow children make their way into the building safely. We will teach the children their routines and the school opening time will resume to 9.10am from Friday the 28th of August onwards.

We look forward to welcoming all of our children back to school next week and will be in touch further if there are any further updates

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Dominic Hayes

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