



Assumption Junior School



Safe School Reopening Plan 2020

Dear Parents,

The staff of Assumption Junior School have been working hard to formulate a safe school reopening plan for September. We understand how difficult this closure has been on our pupils and your families and we are doing everything we can to create a plan that allows us to open our school safely and to remain open, following all advice and guidelines from the HSE and the Department of Education and Skills.

In order for us to successfully reopen on September 1st we will need the highest possible level of cooperation from you, the parents. We will have to make changes to how people enter and exit the school grounds and around how parents and teachers can communicate as you will see in the document below. Through working together with all staff, parents and pupils following the new rules we will be able to reopen with confidence and to keep life in school as happy and normal as possible for our children.

Thank you for your cooperation and I look forward to welcoming all our children back on September 1st.

Jean Leonard (Principal).

Class Bubbles:

All of our classes will be organised into whole class bubbles. This means that the children will work and play with only the children from their own class. We are arranging to have the school yard relined to give each class a large zone to play in during lunchtime.

Although it is not a requirement for pupils from Junior Infants to Second Class in the government guidelines, we will also be operating a POD system in our classrooms in so far as is possible given the small size of most of our rooms. This means that children will be sitting in groups of between 5 and 7 in their classroom and will primarily work with and in some cases share resources with only these children. Children will not be switching seats in these groups until at least Christmas when we have a 14-day break from school.

One-Way System:

From September 1st we will be operating a one-way system for all pedestrians through the school grounds. This will apply to morning drop offs and afternoon collections.

Everyone **must** enter through the Kilnarnagh Road gate (opposite the Church and marked as ENTRANCE on the map below).

You must then follow the pathways around the school and into the school yard with your child.

You **must wait with your child** in the yard until the bell rings at 8.50 and you **must practise social distancing** at all times in the yard and in the school grounds. All parents must take personal responsibility to ensure that they and their child maintain a safe distance from others in the school grounds.

Opening Time:

School will begin at 8.50am as normal. Each year group will be assigned a different door to enter the school through. We will send you on photos and details of this before the end of the month. Children will be expected to line up with their class group at a designated space near their entrance door. Parents will not be allowed to enter this line-up zone and it will be clearly marked with cones. Again, we will issue photos and specific lining-up instructions to each year group later in the month.

All parents are expected to exit the school grounds quickly and safely as soon as the bell goes, and their child moves to the line-up zone.

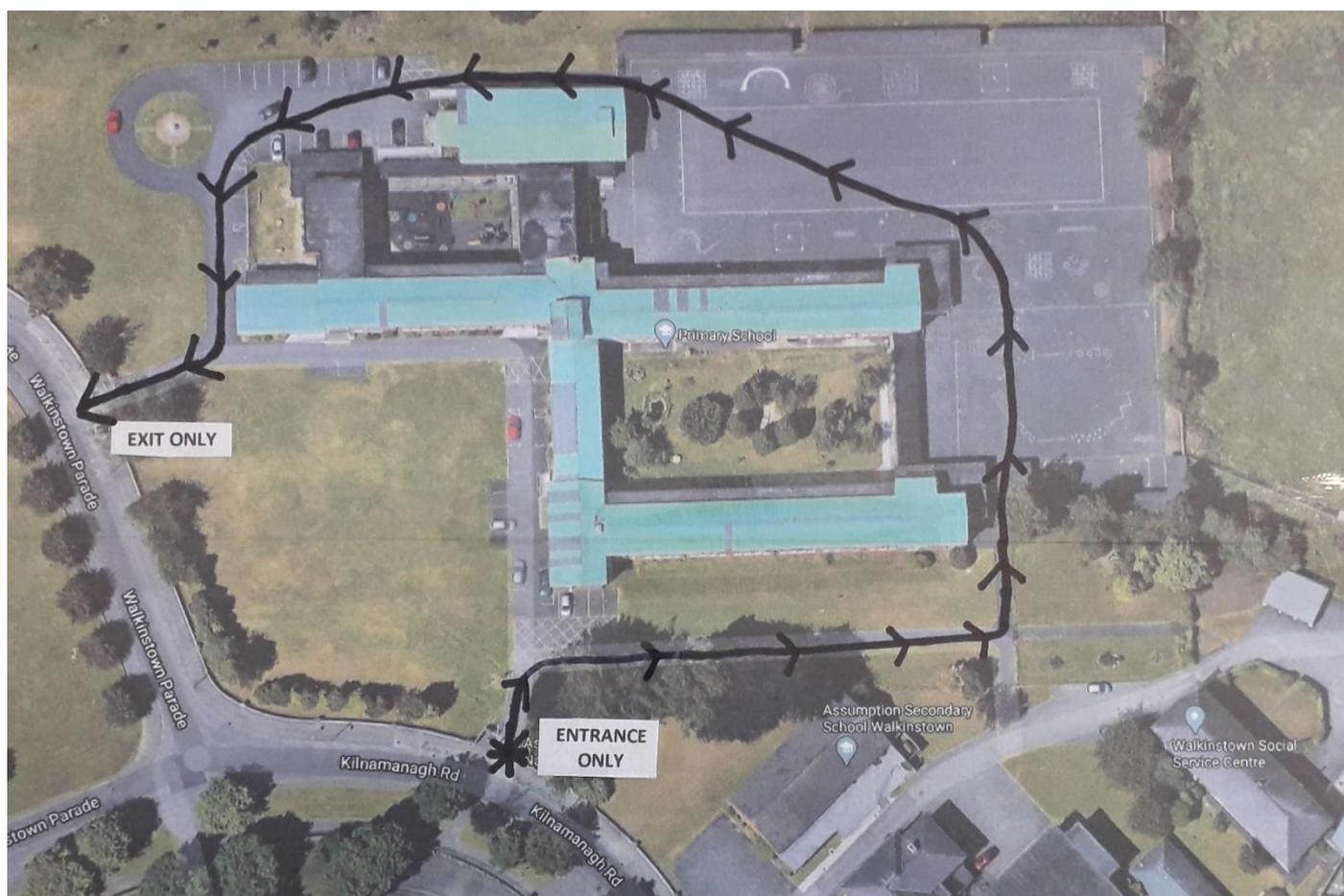
Parent must exit from the yard via the staff carpark and out through the Walkinstown Parade gate (Marked as **EXIT** on the map below).

For the first few weeks,

school staff in high vis vests will be positioned at the entry and exit points and at various locations throughout the one-way route to help direct foot traffic. Please minimise your contact with the teachers at drop-off and collection times and always maintain a 2-metre distance.

This is a new system to all of us and while it may be inconvenient for you to follow the one-way system it is essential that you do so in order to keep all pupils, parents and staff safe. Please be respectful of the school staff on your way through the grounds as they are very keen to have the children back to school and have been working hard to make the reopening go as smoothly as possible.

One-Way Route Map



ENTRANCE (below)



Pedestrian gate at entrance



Late Arrivals:

Punctuality will be essential to the safe return of all of our pupils. If you arrive with your child after 9am you will not be permitted to enter the school building. You will be asked to wait outside the front door until a member of staff is available to escort your child to their class.

As we cannot mix children from different classes we can no longer take groups of late children around the school, instead we will only be able to take one child at a time and the parents will have to wait outside with their own child until there is a free staff member to do so.

Home-Time:

Junior Infants and Senior Infants will finish at 1.30pm as normal.

First and Second Class will finish at 2.30pm as normal.

Children will be lined up in the line-up zone at home time as in the mornings. Parents cannot enter this zone. Children will then be dismissed individually from their line. Parents must practice social distancing in the school grounds during collection time and as they are leaving the grounds.

The same one-way system as in the mornings will apply.

We will send you on further details and photos of your child's collection zone later in the month.

Junior Infants:

Junior Infant Drop and Collect times will be staggered for the first week as follows:

Week 1: September 1st to September 4th

September 1 st to September 4 th			
Class	Teacher	Drop off Time	Collection Time
Room 2	Ms Gilmer	9.10	11.20
Room 3	Ms Bustard	9.20	11.30
Room 4	Ms Furlong/Ms Dennany	9.30	11.40
Room 5	Ms O'Sullivan	9.40	11.50
Room 6	Ms Byrne	9.50	12.00

Week 2: September 7th to September 11th

All Junior Infant Classes drop-off time 9.10am and collection time 12pm.

From Monday, September 14th Junior Infants will attend for the full day from 8.50am to 1.30pm.

We will be in touch with locations and photos of where the drop and collect points for your child's class are later this month.

Early Intervention Class:

Early Intervention Class Drop and Collect times will be as follows for the first two weeks:

Week 1: September 1st to September 4th - **9.15am to 11.30am**

Week 2: September 7th to September 11th - **9.15am to 12pm**

From Monday, September 14th Early Intervention pupils will attend for their full day from 9.15am to 1pm.

We will be in touch with locations and photos of where the drop and collect points for your child's class are later this month.

Uniform:

All children from Junior Infants to First Class should only wear the school tracksuit. We have been phasing out the uniform in favour of school tracksuit only for the past two years. All girls in Second Class may wear the school tracksuit every day also unless you have uniform from last year that you would like your daughter to wear out. Please ensure that your child is wearing short sleeves under their tracksuit top so that they can easily roll their sleeves up as there will be increased handwashing for all children.

We would advise that you purchase two tracksuits to allow for more frequent washing and drying of the tracksuits. Generic tracksuit bottoms can be bought in any of the supermarkets. Information on where to purchase the school tracksuit is available on our website.

Access to School:

As per government guidelines, parents and visitors will no longer be permitted access to the school unless an appointment has been made in advance. It is vital that we do all we can to avoid cases of the virus in our school and this is part of the process.

Parents have a very important role in preparing their children for coming into school independently, without their parents in September. It is essential that all parents spend time over the summer discussing this in a positive way with their children. Tell them that mammy and daddy can't go into the school building because we are all working hard to stop the germs from spreading and remind them that they are doing a brilliant job by being big boys and girls and going into school each morning with their friends in their line.

You will still be able to meet with your child's teacher in an appropriate, socially distanced way if you need to discuss any aspect of your child's schooling, but you will need to make an appointment first.

Aladdin Connect:

It is essential that all parents sign up to the Aladdin Connect App. I'm delighted to say that most parents have already done so but if you require a new code to begin the registration process please send an email to assumptionjsclosure2020@gmail.com and a new code and instructions can be sent to you.

We do not know what the winter will bring in terms of an increase in cases and in the event that the school or particular classes are told to close for a period of time we will be using Aladdin Connect to communicate with parents and very importantly to set and collect work from pupils. The app is free for all parents so please ensure that you activate it as soon as possible.

Reopening Videos:

Our teachers are working on videos of their classrooms that will be uploaded to our website in advance of opening.

We will also be creating a walk-through video showing the route through the grounds that you and your child will take when coming to school this year. We will notify you when these videos are available, and they will be a nice way to help refamiliarize the children with the school again.

We hope you and your child will find the transition back to school a very happy one. Please keep an eye on your Aladdin App and email for further details on the reopening plans that will be issued to you in the coming weeks.

Thank you.