



# Assumption Junior School



## Safe School Reopening Plan 2021

Dear Parents,

As per Department of Education directive we will be continuing with the Covid-19 protocols that were in place last year. This document sets out those protocols as a reminder for parents who had pupils in the school last year and as a guide for our new parents. We hope that this year we can continue to operate our school safely as we did last year, following all advice and guidelines from the HSE and the Department of Education.

In order for us to successfully remain open we will need the same high level of cooperation from you, that we enjoyed last year. Reminders on how people must enter and exit the school grounds and around how parents and teachers can communicate are outlined in the document below. Through continuing to work together and with all staff, parents and pupils following our Covid-19 protocols we will be able to reopen with confidence and 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 August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Jean Leonard (Principal).

### **Class Bubbles:**

All of our classes will continue to be organised into whole class bubbles. This means that the children will work and play with only the children from their own class. Last summer we had the school yard relined to give each class a large zone to play in during lunchtime. This proved to be very successful, and the smaller yard groups made it easier for new and quieter children in particular to make friends in their class more easily.

Although it is not a requirement for pupils from Junior Infants to Second Class in the government guidelines, we will also continue to operate 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 the Halloween mid-term break.

### **One-Way System:**

Please continue to wear masks when in the school grounds. Access to the school building is dependent on mask wearing.

We will continue to operate 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 Kilnamanagh 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 **please 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:**

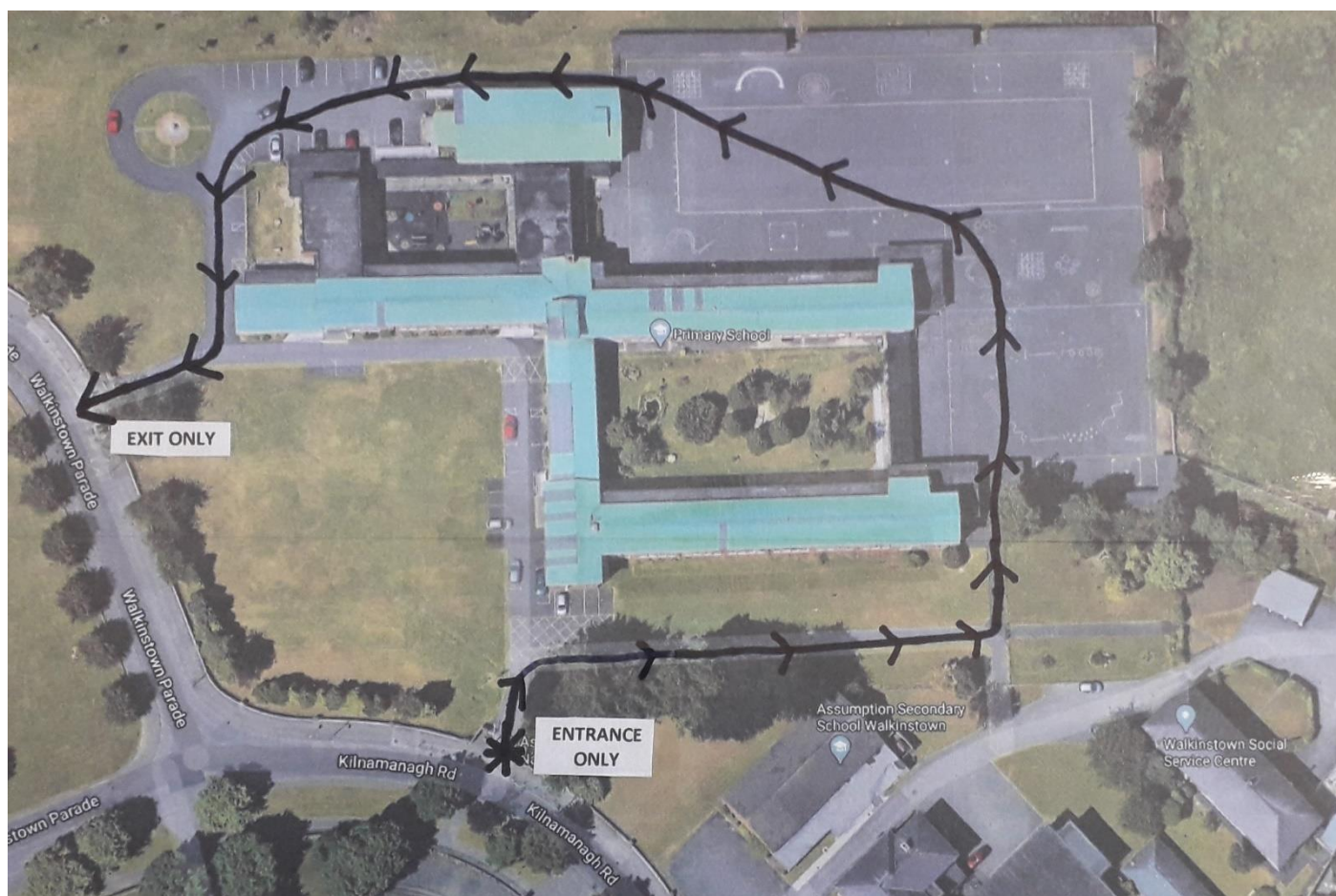
**School will begin at 8.50am as normal.** Each year group will continue to use a different door to enter the school building. Children should line up at their room number cone as normal. Children will continue to line up with their class group at their designated space near their entrance door. Parents will not be allowed to enter this line-up zone and it will be clearly marked with cones. This is a system that worked very well last year and thank you to our parents for following this protocol.

All parents are asked to once again 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 the yard via the staff carpark and out through the Walkinstown Parade gate (Marked as **EXIT** on the map below).

Please minimise your contact with the teachers at drop-off and collection times and always maintain a 2-metre distance.

### 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 again line 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 as last year. 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.

### **Junior Infants:**

Junior Infants will attend for a shorter day initially as in previous years. The times are as follows:

August 31 <sup>st</sup> to September 3 <sup>rd</sup> :	<b>9.30 am to 12pm</b>
September 6 <sup>th</sup> to September 10 <sup>th</sup> :	<b>8.50am to 12pm</b>
September 13 <sup>th</sup> :	<b>8.50am to 1.30pm</b>

From August 31<sup>st</sup> to September 10<sup>th</sup> Junior Infants will exit through the front door of the school at 12pm. This is due to other classes being in the school yard at this time. From September 13<sup>th</sup> the children will be dropped and collected at their door. Junior Infant parents will receive more information about this early in the term.

### **Uniform:**

All children from Junior Infants to First Class should only wear the school tracksuit. We have phased out the traditional uniform in favour of school tracksuit only over the past two years. Please ensure that your child is wearing short sleeves under their tracksuit top so that they can easily roll their sleeves up as there is increased handwashing for all children.

The school tracksuit can be purchased from the Schoolwear House and more information is available on our website. Generic tracksuit bottoms/polo shirts can be bought in any of the supermarkets.

### **Access to School:**

As per government guidelines, parents and visitors will continue to not 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. You did an amazing job with this last year and our Junior infant pupils showed a level of maturity from day one that astounded all the staff. Try to spend time over the next couple of weeks discussing this in a positive way with your child. Remind them that mammy and daddy can't go into the school building because we are still 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. This is our primary means of communication 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. Last year we used teacher email as a means of communication with parents. This year, instead of email, we will be using a new feature on Aladdin Connect which will allow parents and teachers to send messages to each other through the app. We will be sending you information on how to use this feature and the protocols around it in the coming weeks.

### **Lunch:**

Each class will again eat in their own room, either before or after yard, depending on yard times.

**All lunch waste must be brought home each day by each child.** Please send a clearly labelled lunchbox into school each day so that waste can be returned. Children should be able to open and close their own lunchbox and beaker/bottle easily.

School milk will still be supplied but the children who receive it will continue to bring it home to drink. This is to avoid any potential cross contamination between straws if opened milk is left on desks in the classroom.

You will be able to opt into the milk scheme through the permissions function on the Aladdin Connect app next week. A notification will be sent to you on Connect when this feature is available. If you do not choose to receive milk at this time you will not be able to opt in at a later date as our orders are capped at the start of the year and we cannot increase them.

School sandwiches and snacks will still be available. Again, you will be able to opt into these through Aladdin Connect and you will be sent a notification when this is available.

**School milk, sandwiches and snacks will be available from September 13<sup>th</sup> so all children should bring a packed lunch and healthy drink (water, milk etc. no fizzy drinks) for the first two weeks until orders have been processed.**

### **Labelling:**

All of your children's items must be clearly labelled. This includes tracksuit tops, coats, school bags, lunch boxes, books and stationery. If your child is unable to tie laces independently, please ensure they are wearing footwear with Velcro fasteners. It is important that the children can fasten their own coats too.

### **Managing Illness:**

For the safety of the school community children must not come to school if they are displaying any of the following symptoms:

- A fever (temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or higher)
- A cough
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- A loss or sudden change of smell or taste

A child who displays any of these symptoms in school will be brought by a staff member to the school's Covid-19 isolation room to be supervised until they are collected.

The child's parents will be phoned immediately to arrange collection of the child. **Please ensure that we have your correct contact details at all times.** You can change and update your contact details on your Aladdin Connect App.

Pupils with symptoms or those identified by the HSE as a contact of a person with Covid-19 should not attend school and should follow HSE advice on restriction of movement. This includes parents dropping children to school.

If your child is in the "High Risk" or "Very High Risk" category for Covid-19 please consult with your child's doctor in advance of their return to school.

We are all really looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on August 31<sup>st</sup> and we hope that with your continued support we will enjoy a very positive school year as we did last year.

Thank you.