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Castlebridge,
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Mr. Pat Goff
(Chairperson of Board)
Edward Lyons(Principal)

Reopening Castlebridge National School Plan 2021/2022

This is a live document constantly under review and open to change

Returning to school:

- **Jl only on the 25th August for Induction day (10am to 11:15am)**
- **All classes on Thursday 26th August the same as last term.**
- **Castlebridge NS will operate during normal school hours 9:20am-2:00pm/3:00pm for the rest of the year.**

Junior infants will finish school at 12 noon until Friday the 10th of September. Then from September 13th Junior Infants will finish their school day at 2pm with the Senior Infants.

Arriving to school this year:

Castlebridge NS will open its gates and doors at 9:10am. Pupils are asked to arrive no earlier than 9:10am. This is very important in order to keep all pupils safe and isolated in their own class bubble as per the Government guidelines and public health guidelines. We must minimise the risk by reducing interaction between classes.

- Parents are asked not to come into the school grounds unless they have made an appointment through the office. There will be a lot more paperwork involving a tracking log.
- **We are asking that those children that walk to school do not arrive until as near to the start time of 9:20am as is possible.**
- On arrival the pupils go directly to their classrooms. This practice will be for our initial return and will continue until further notice.

Extract directly from the Government Guidelines:

Physical Distancing outside of the classroom and within the school

School drop off /collection

"Arrangements for dropping off /collecting pupils should be arranged to encourage physical distancing of 2m where possible.

Walking /cycling to school should be encouraged as much as possible.

Arrangements should be made to maintain a physical distance of 2m between parents and guardians and between parents and guardians and school staff.

Aim of any arrangements is to avoid a congregation of people at the school gates where physical distancing may not be respected. If schools have additional access points consideration may be given to whether they can be used to ease congestion.

Consideration may be given to where pupils congregate as they arrive at school. This could include heading straight to their small group designated learning space/classroom."

The entering and exiting routines from the school will be revised and practiced with the children when they return.

Entering the school:

- All pupils enter through the three gated entrances in the morning.
- Children will be directed to enter the building through the following areas:
 1. All **JI,SI and 1st** classes through the staff entrance and through the hall to their classrooms.
 2. All **2nd,3rd and 4th classes** enter through the double doors in the SEN area beside the field.
 3. All **5th and 6th class** pupils will enter the school through the door at the office entrance facing the astro pitch and go immediately left directly to their classrooms.

Morning supervision to be provided as before on wet mornings. If we are required to make any changes here to ensure we adhere to public health guidelines we will discuss it as a whole staff in advance. Huge thanks to all for their co-operation here and to all who have offered in advance to assist. All teachers will be in their classroom at 9:10am to welcome the children and to ensure washing of hands and sanitisation takes place.

Exiting the Building

- **JI and SI** classes will exit through the hall and out through the set down area gate at 2 pm
- **The three exits from the grounds will be used at 3pm.**
- **5th and 6th classes will exit via the office door and gate to the teachers car park.**
- **3rd and 4th classes will exit through double doors at the SEN area via the set down exit.**
- **1st and 2nd classes will exit through the hall via the middle gate.**

Class Teachers, the SNA's will oversee this process and accompany the pupils.

Classrooms.

- Classrooms will be laid out in line with the Dept guidelines to ensure 1m distancing between children where practicable and possible between 3rd and 6th..

- Children will be seated in groups of 4-6 max. These groupings will be together until the Christmas when there will be an opportunity to change seating arrangements after that break.
- J1 to 2nd will be placed in pods.

Face coverings:

- It is not currently recommended by the HSE that children under the age of 13 wear face masks.
We will not be going against this recommendation however some children may wear face masks. Parents have been advised that we can only monitor this within reason and a zip lock plastic bag should accompany the mask for when they are not wearing and stored in their school bag.
- **All adults will wear their own facemask. Face masks for the staff will be purchased by the school.**

Hygiene

- As per the guidelines all pupils will have opportunity to wash their hands and sanitise at all the appropriate times during the day. The minimum requirements are set out in the guidelines as follows:
 1. On arrival at school.
 2. Before eating or drinking.
 3. After break times.
 4. After using the toilet.
 5. When hands are physically dirty.
 6. When they cough or sneeze.
- Sanitizers have been fitted in every room and in all communal areas.

Ventilation

- The main change that will take place in the Covid Response Plan relates to ventilation & CO2 monitors. The monitors will be sent to the school during the month of September and installed. Fortunately the staff in Castlebridge N.S. have already completed training on the use of ventilation and will be updating this training going forward.

Isolation Area

- As per the guidelines isolation areas have been set up in the school.

Extract from Government Guidelines:

"A designated isolation area should be identified within the school building. The possibility of having more than one person displaying signs of covid-19 should be considered and a contingency plan for dealing with additional cases put in place. The

designated isolation area should be behind a closed door and away from other staff and pupils.

If a staff member/pupil displays symptoms of COVID-19 while at school the following are the procedures to be implemented:

If the person with the suspected case is a pupil, the parents/guardians should be contacted immediately.

Pupil must contact their GP and Public Health will take over at this stage and direct the individual and family at this point."

- **Our isolation area is located in the old office opposite the hall entrance.**
- **If there were more than one child displaying symptoms the bathroom and large classroom in the SEN area will be used.**

Communication with the School:

- In the mornings and throughout the day, parents and all visitors are asked not to come into school grounds unless they have made an appointment through the office through the use of Aladdin. There will be a lot more paperwork involving a tracking log, set down by the department, for anyone coming into the school for any reason no matter how short the visit.

As per government guidelines:

Access to the school building will be in line with agreed school procedures.

"Arrangements for necessary visitors such as contractors and parents will be restricted to essential purposes and limited to those who have obtained prior approval from the Principal. The Department of Education Inspectorate may also need to visit schools and centres for education to support them as appropriate in the implementation of public health advice relating to creating a safe learning and working environment for all."

Uniforms and Coats:

- Pupils will continue to wear our own school uniforms and tracksuits.
- The children's coats will be placed on the back of their chairs.

Cash and e-payments.

- This area is under review. However there will be no savings for the first term.
- The Raffle will continue on Friday and will be done in a socially distant manner. We ask that Raffle prizes be brought to the school on a Tuesday to allow for the necessary 72 hours quarantine.

Cleaning:

- The school will be deep cleaned before re opening.
- Each classroom has being fitted out with extra hand disinfecting stations and proper hygiene measures will be consistently reinforced in all classes
- All classrooms will be thoroughly cleaned daily .

- During the school day the staff are responsible for cleaning our own work areas/offices etc. - cleaning sprays, wipes have been placed in each classroom.
- The school has completely refitted the cleaners store and we purchased enough product to meet demand in the school until Christmas. The area complies with Health and Safety regulations.

Break Times

- As set down by the guidelines, children within each class bubble will be allowed to mix together at break times and lunch times when outside. Children from different rooms playing together will not be allowed however.
- Break times are going to be staggered for the first term.

**J1, SI, 1st and 2nd classes will have the following breaks:
(10:45am to 11:00am) and (12:15pm to 12:45pm)**

**3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes will have the following breaks:
(11:05am to 11:20am) and (12:50pm to 1:20pm)**

- **A number of areas are required per break-time to ensure each class can stay in their class bubble. These areas have been identified and clearly marked out on a map of the grounds.**
- **A map indicating where your class will play will be distributed on the 27th.**
- **Mrs Hearne will also distribute a time-table for yard duty. We hope not to increase this drastically from other years. However, this entire plan is fluid and it is a priority that we must ensure we are fully compliant with the guidelines in order to ensure all our safety.**

Extra-Curricular

- Due to the precarious nature of the present situation that there will be no extra-curricular or very limited before Halloween when a review will take place.

Books and Materials.

Children will be required to use their own resources at all times i.e. pencils, scissors etc and sharing of resources, particularly from 3rd to 6th will not be allowed

- A box with a lid will be essential for all children from 1st to 6th.
- J1 and SI teachers to discuss best way to organise materials.

Homework Club, Assemblies and the 2 to 3 club.

- The 2-3 club will be available for J1 only.
- Homework Club and Assemblies will not be taking place in the in the first term.
- These will all be under review at Halloween

Schoolbags and Lunch boxes

- Schoolbags will be used in the normal manner.
- Lunchboxes will still be used but all wrappings and leftovers must be returned to the box and returned home, where possible lunches should include items they can open independently

Code of Discipline and Anti-Bullying Policy.

We will be inserting in both policies guidelines and measures to cover instances where children may intimate that someone or their family have Covid-19 and also if a child were to cough intentionally into another child's face.

Travel Information from Re-opening of School Section of DES:

The Government Guidelines in this area are constantly changing and the regulations which are in place at the time will be the guidelines we will follow.

Regards,

Pat Goff
Chairperson
Board of Management

Edward Lyons,
Principal