

HOLY TRINITY N.S., FETHARD, CO. TIPPERARY
Reopening Plan for Holy Trinity NS, Fethard

Underlying Principles:

- The school has a responsibility to make every effort to ensure the safety, health and well-being of all member of our school community – children, staff and parents/guardians. Our Reopening Plan has been formulated to better ensure that the school can exercise that duty of care.
- Assuming it is in keeping with public health advice and guidelines issued by the Department of Education and Skills, it is preferable for all children to return to school for all five days of the school week and for a full day. This plan has been formulated to achieve that aim.
- It is not possible to eliminate the risk of infection. However, with the co-operation of all members of our school community, it is possible to minimize the risk of the virus being introduced to school and the consequent risk of spread.
- As well as co-operation, the flexibility and goodwill of all will be required to ensure that the plan can be implemented.

Assumptions:

- All children will return to school on Monday, August 31st. Classes will operate within a bubble system.
- Starting times and finishing times will be as normal for 1st class to 6th class.
- Junior Infants and Senior Infants will have different start times **for the first week only.**
- The school is split into 2 groups with each group having different break-times and lunchtimes - to allow adequate space to classes to stay and play only in their class bubbles in the yard.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at all entrance/exit points and in all classrooms, SEN rooms and other areas in the school building.



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Logistical Information for Parents/Guardians

Drop Off and Collection Times:

To help with reducing the amount of traffic around the school gates, children are asked to walk/cycle/scoot to school if it is at all possible.

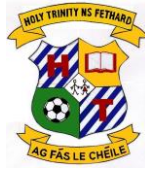
Protocols for Daily Morning Entry to school:

Entry to the school grounds is via one of three gates:

GATE 1	Pre-School Gate on Rocklow Rd	2 nd Class and 3 rd class
GATE 2	Main School Gate	Junior Infants, 1 st Class and 6 th Class
GATE 3	Gate beside the staff car-park	Senior Infants, 4 th Class, 5 th Class

Different doors will also be used by different classes for entry to the school building. These have been given a different colour to help identify them:

Door	Where?	Classes
Blue Door	Back of school, beside the staffroom	2 nd Class and 3 rd Class
Red Door	Main Front Door	Junior Infants, 1 st Class and 6 th Class
Yellow Door	Side door (first door on the left by the staff car-park)	5 th Class
Green Door	Side door (second door on the left by the staff car-park)	Senior Infants and 4 th Class



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Daily Morning Assembly for Junior Infants and Senior Infants:

Junior Infants: for the first week only:

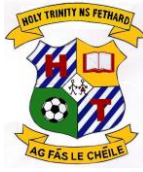
- To help Junior Infant children settle more easily, groups of children can be brought through Gate 2 to the Main Door (Red Door) by their parents/guardians in three groups. Parents/Guardians will be informed by text as to which group their child is in.
 - Group 1 at 9.30am
 - Group 2 at 9.40am
 - Group 3 at 9.50am
- Please note that this is for the first week of school only.
- From Monday, 7th September onwards, Junior Infant children can be dropped at Gate 2 from 9.10am.
- A staff member will guide the children safely to their classroom.

Senior Infants: for the first week only (to allow children to settle in more easily)

- Senior Infants should arrive to Gate 3 at 9.20am where they will be guided into the school by a staff member and met in the classroom by their teacher, Mrs. Meehan.
- From Monday, 7th September Senior Infants can arrive to school and use Gate 3 as normal from 9.10am onwards..

Daily Morning Assembly for 1st to 6th:

- **At 9.10am** the three main gates will be opened.
- Please Note: to minimise the risks, and to help us to maintain social distancing, the children may not come onto the school grounds before the school gates open at 9.10am. If your child is walking, cycling, scooting or getting a taxi to school please ensure that they do not arrive to the school before 9.10am as we cannot permit them entry. This is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and this will be strictly enforced for health and safety reasons.
- Please note: Duty of care rests with the parents/guardians until 9.10am.
- 1st to 6th class: Parents are asked to 'drop and go' anytime between 9.10am and 9.20am – there will be school staff on duty at the various gates and entry doors to guide each pupil directly to their classroom and to ensure that they sanitise their hands.
- Upon entering a classroom the children will go straight to their seat and organise themselves for the day at their seat. Children will not be permitted to move around the room. All children will keep all belongings at their desk except their coat. They may hang up their coats when the area is free or when a staff member permits them to do so, markings will be placed on the class floor for this.



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- Unfortunately, it will not be possible for parents/guardians to come onto the school grounds before/after school. If you need to speak to a member of school staff, please contact the office to make an appointment.

Afternoon - Daily Dismissal

Junior Infants:

(Adults who are collecting children from school should wait outside the school wall and maintain social distance.)

- Junior Infants will exit the school using Gate 2.
- For the first week only there will be three staggered collections from Gate 2 - the Main Gate.. Parents/guardians should adhere to the given time.
 - Group 1 at 12pm
 - Group 2 at 12.05pm
 - Group 3 at 12.10pm
- Parents/Guardians are asked to 'pick up and go'.
- These collection times are for the first week only - from 7th September to Friday, 18th September, Junior Infants can be collected at 12pm.
- From Monday, 21st September, Junior Infants can be collected at 2pm.

Senior Infants:

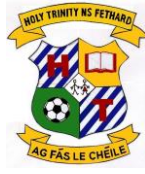
(Adults who are collecting children from school should wait outside the school wall and maintain social distancing.)

- Senior Infants will exit the school using Gate 3. At 2pm the Class teacher will bring Senior Infants to Gate 3.
- Parents/Guardians are asked to 'pick up and go'.

1st-6th Classes

(Adults who are collecting children from school should wait in their car where possible or outside the school wall and maintain social distancing.)

- 3pm Class teachers will bring 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Class children to the relevant school gate.
- Parents/guardians/people collecting are asked to 'pick up and go'.



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- As many of our older children walk/cycle home, there should not be as many cars arriving for pickups at this time.

We would ask all parents/guardians to familiarise themselves with the drop-off and collection routines for the safe delivery and collection of pupils from school. Please be patient as we endeavour to embed these necessary precautionary and protective practices at the beginning of the school year.

It is imperative that:

- Adults do not come within 2m of each other
- Parents/guardians do not try to have meetings with members of staff at the drop-off and collection times – meetings between parents and teachers can only take place by prior arrangement
- All parent/guardians adhere to the drop-off and collection plans and times outlined above

This system will apply rain, hail or shine so please make sure that your child comes to school prepared for the weather!

Breaktimes and Lunchtimes:

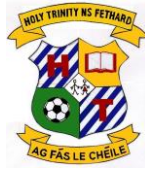
The DES guidelines state that the risk of transmission from contact with outside surfaces or play areas is low.

10.50-11	Break for Junior Infants (Yard 1), Senior Infants (Yard 2), 3rd and 5 th (Yard 3)
11.10-11.20	Break for 1 st (Yard 1), 2 nd (Yard 2), 4th and 6 th (Yard 3)
12.25-12.55	Lunch for Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 3rd and 5 th
12.55 – 1.25	Lunch for 1 st , 2 nd , 4th and 6 th

Collection of Children during the School Day:

Early Collection of children from school is discouraged. If an adult absolutely has to collect a child during the course of the school day, the following arrangements will apply.

- Please inform the school via a phone call or an email the day before if possible
- The adult collecting the child must phone the office or ring the doorbell on arrival
- The child will be sent to the front door for collection at the appropriate time once the adult collecting the child has arrived and the class teacher has been notified
- The adult collecting the child will be asked to sign the child out
- The adult collecting the child must wear a mask and must complete the contact tracing log sheet
- No adult should enter the school building unless invited to do so



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Dealing with a Suspected Case of Covid 19:

If a pupil displays symptoms of Covid-19 while in the building the following procedures will be implemented:

- Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately
- The child will be accompanied to a designated isolation area by a staff member. The staff member will remain 2m away from the symptomatic child and will also make sure that others maintain a distance of at least 2m from the symptomatic child
- A mask will be provided for the child presenting with symptoms. He/she should wear the mask if in a common area with other people or while exiting the building
- An assessment will be made as to whether the child who is displaying symptoms can immediately be brought home by parents/guardians and call their doctor and continue self-isolation at home
- The school will facilitate the child presenting with symptoms to remain in isolation if they cannot immediately go home, and will assist by calling their doctor
- The child presenting with symptoms should be advised to cover their mouth and nose with the disposable tissues provided when they cough or sneeze and to put the tissues in the bin provided.
- If the child is well enough to go home, the school will arrange for them to be transported home by a family member as soon as possible and advise them to inform their GP by phone of their symptoms. Public transport of any kind should not be used
- If they are too unwell to go home or advice is required, the school will contact 999/112 and inform them that the sick child is a Covid-19 suspect case
- Arrangements will be made for appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and work areas involved.

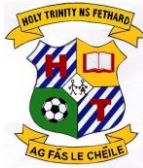
The HSE will inform any staff/parent/guardian who have come into close contact with a diagnosed case via the contact tracing process. The HSE will contact all relevant persons where a diagnosis of Covid-19 is made. The instructions of the HSE should be followed.

Child who should not attend school:

If your child is in one of the following categories, they should not attend school:

- Children diagnosed with Covid-19
- Child who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19
- Children who have a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
- Children who have been in contact with a person who has a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
- Children with underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school
- Children who have travelled from countries not on the Green List should not attend school during the 14-day self-isolation period
- Children who are generally unwell

- Children who are displaying colds, coughs or flu like symptoms should not be sent to school. Children who display such symptoms in school will be isolated and parents asked to collect them from the school.



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Supporting the Learning of Children who cannot attend School:

If a child is not able to attend school for an extended period of time (certified by a medical professional), the class teacher and/or the support teacher, where relevant will suggest activities to support the child's learning at home. Arrangements may be made to communicate with the child during school time.

Impact of a Suspected Case or Confirmed Case of Covid-19 in a Class:

If the school is notified that a person in your child's class has a confirmed case of Covid-19:

- The parents/guardians of all children in the class will be notified
- Public health advice will be sought and followed

Personal Equipment:

- In so far as possible, it is requested that children bring their own pencil cases to school to avoid the sharing of equipment.
- It is further requested that all items (school books, copies, pencils, pens, ruler, twistables, lunch box, water bottle, school bag, items of clothing) have the child's name on them for ease of identification.

Lunches:

- The school will continue to operate the Healthy Lunch Policy. Please give them only water to drink. We have banned single use plastic – cling-film, plastic bags, single use plastic water bottles. Please ensure that you label your child's re-usable water bottle and their lunch box.
- Please do not give your child any items that they are unable to open independently – troublesome items for children – Frubes, yogurt cartons, small items wrapped tightly in plastic. If children cannot open it by themselves, please don't put it in their lunch box.
- Please ensure that your child can easily open his/her lunch box and water bottle independently.
- Please ensure that your child has their full lunch and water bottle and everything else they need coming to school each day.
- If lunches are forgotten/left at home: the school will make contact and request that you bring the lunch to the school. There will be a container at the Main Front Door for lunches and other forgotten items. This will be clearly marked to avoid confusion. You should phone the school to alert them that you have left an item in this container. A member of staff will then take it from the container and bring it to your child.
- The above procedure applies for any item that needs to be dropped to the school.

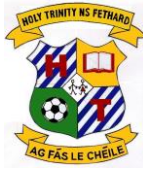
Shared Equipment:

By necessity, some classroom equipment needs to be shared including tablets and the equipment used for structured activities. Cleaning of such shared equipment with wipes or other cleaning products will take place at regular intervals to minimize the risk of the spread of infection.

Yards:

Classes (bubbles) will have access to the yards during their allotted break and lunch times.

Yards will be supervised by the class teachers, support teachers and SNAs working with those bubbles.



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Support Teaching:

In keeping with our Special Education Policy, support will be provided by a blended approach of in-class support and withdrawal. The provision of support will be organized to ensure our support teachers will work within the confines of two bubbles.

- Where a support teacher is working alongside another teacher in a classroom, both teachers must be mindful of maintaining social distance from one another
- Where children from 3rd-6th class receive support in one of the SET rooms, social distancing of at least 1m will be maintained between each child in the group
- The tables and chairs in SET rooms will be wiped clean in between different group settings

PPE:

The current guidelines from the DES recommend that primary school staff wear face coverings where a distance of 2m cannot be maintained. Other PPE including gloves, aprons and face masks will be available to all staff who are attending to particular care needs or who are administering first aid.

Teacher Absence and Substitution:

In the event that a teacher is unable to attend school, every effort will be made to secure a substitute teacher for the class. If a substitute teacher is not available, it is not appropriate for the class to be divided into groups and accommodated in other classes. In such circumstances, temporary cover will be provided by the SEN teacher until a substitute is available.

PE:

Where possible PE should take place outdoors and use of equipment should be confined to sets that have been distributed to class grouping. The hall in the school is not available for PE as it will be needed for larger groups of children when accessing support teaching.

Extra-Curricular activities:

It is not recommended that children from different bubbles would participate in extra-curricular activities. Therefore, there will be no Spikeball, Volleyball, Hurling, Camogie, Football after school. Please be assured that the possibility of facilitating extra-curricular activities will continue to be explored once school re-opens.

Assemblies:

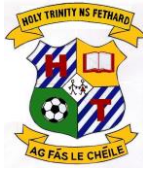
No mixed class assemblies will take place. School assemblies will be held via Google Meet in class.

Homework:

Homework will continue as normal. Upon return to school your child's class teacher and/or support teacher will inform you of any changes to procedure for homework correction (use of Google Classroom/See Saw to post homework is a possibility).

Uniform:

- Please ensure that uniforms are washed as appropriate.
- If your child cannot tie his/her laces independently, they should only wear footwear with Velcro straps.
- Children from Junior Infants to 2nd only wear a navy tracksuit (no logos) and polo shirt daily and multiple sets should be used on alternate days where possible.



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- 2nd to 6th will wear their uniform or the school tracksuit (the school crested sports jumper if purchased and/or a plain navy jumper). The school would always encourage parents/guardians to have two sports jumpers (these do not have to be school crested sports jumpers, plain navy sports jumper is fine too) for ease of washing and hygiene purposes etc.. These can then be worn on alternate days.
- Maintaining good ventilation in all rooms means that windows will need to be open, even in the cooler winter weather. We suggest that you have base layers for your child to wear in such times.

Swimming:

No swimming in the first term. This will be reviewed at the end of term 1.

School Payment:

For health and safety and to minimize visitors to the school office a cashless system (Way2Pay) will operate from now on. You will receive information on this soon. Your co-operation will be required to ensure it can be effectively implemented.

This is a living document that may need to be adapted to reflect any challenges encountered or as guidelines change - you will be informed of any changes. Please inform the office if you change your phone number or email address so that we can update our records.

As previously stated, co-operation, patience, flexibility and the goodwill of all will be required to ensure that this plan can be implemented. This co-operation will be extremely important, especially for drop off and collection times. We are really looking forward to welcoming you back to the school on 31st August.

Thank you.

School Contact Details:

Landline: 052-6131493

Email: trionamorrisson@holytrinitynsfethard.com

Website: www.holytrinitynsfethard.com