

Dear Parents,

We are delighted with the news that the children of St Helen's Senior School return to school on Monday 15th March. In this regard I am enclosing a letter for parents issued by the Department of Education yesterday. It is probably a bit soon to be discussing the details of our return to school but you should note the following:

- You will be required to complete a form called '**Return to Educational Facility Parental Declaration Form**' – this is a very simple form, in which you sign that you have no reason to believe that your child has infectious disease and that you have followed all medical and public health guidance with respect to exclusion of your child from educational facilities. This form is already on our website, I will attach it to this email and your child's teacher will send it out on GC. The form is in word format and there is no need to print and sign it – **just complete on the weekend of 11th- 14th March**, i.e., the weekend before we return to school and send it back through google classroom, i.e., send it back to your child's teacher.
- Our logistics plan for the safe return to school still applies, and therefore we will be using the same entrances and exits, the same staggered times for arrival and home times and the same planning around class pods.
- Timetables for the arrival and dismissal times are below. Please ensure that your child does not arrive to school any earlier than the designated time. Our priority is to ensure there is no congregation around the school and thus reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19 in our school community.
- This applies also to parents – PLEASE do no congregate around the school at pick up times – ask your child to meet you somewhere along the way or at your car if you need to drive.

Timetable for Group A 3rd and 4th classes	Timetable for Group B 5th and 6th classes
8.35-8.45 Arrival to school	8:50-9.00 Arrival to school
8.45 – School start	9.00 – School start
2.20 – 3rd Classes finish	
2.25 – 4th classes finish	2.30 – 5th and 6th Classes finish

Finally, we still have two full weeks to go before we return to school. It is very important that your child continues to engage with online learning, sending in assignments, speaking to their teacher if they don't understand what they are doing, and letting me know if more support is needed – Please hang in there and keep going until we get back to school. We will get to work quickly on catching up with learning that has been missed, and assessing the children for gaps in their learning, but in the meantime please keep going with the learning programme we have in place – this is very important for your child's continued progress. We are REALLY looking forward to seeing the children again on 15th March.

Kind regards,

Gwyn Bhreathnach, 25/2/2021