

Knockconan N.S., Knockconan, Emyvale, Co Monaghan

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**School Re-opening Information 2**

**25th August 2020**

Dear Parents,

Preparations continue for school re-opening on Thursday 27th August.

Just to update you on what is happening:

* All classrooms and ancillary rooms in the school are being disinfected by Decontam in advance of opening.
* Door handles, push-bars and other frequently touched metal surfaces are being coated with CopperCover. Viruses and bacteria cannot survive on this coating for more than 2/3 minutes
* Hot water is being added to the wash hand basins in the classroom toilets
* Work is underway to convert the storeroom into more toilets.
* Our four wooden picnic benches will be supplemented by three more – each can seat 4 children with social distancing – this will enable us to take a full class outside.
* There is now a new classroom where the library and resource room were previously. This will now be Miss Keenan’s room (2nd and 3rd class)
* Mrs Boyle (Special Education Teacher or SET) will be working in what was the staffroom.
* Miss Brennan (SET) will be stationed in the office where the school secretary has been up until now.
* These rooms are relatively small and therefore SETs will be working with 1 / 2 children and not larger groups due to social distancing.
* There will no longer be a staffroom.
* We are delighted that the school office is being moved back to beside the front door where access to the building can be better controlled (not just in relation to Covid but for child protection as well)

This arrangement means that all teaching will be confined to the classroom area of the building (ie inside the second security door) and there will be no children accessing the foyer during the day.

* The board prefers that the school does not use the hall for now.
* We are reconfiguring the security access to the building so that other groups will enter from the hall side of the building only.
* The Board of Management has decided that there should be a line drawn in the foyer to the left of the front office door and that no adults other than school personnel should have access beyond that point or to the school classroom side of the building.
* We are reconfiguring the security access to the building so that other groups will enter from the hall side of the building only.
* There will be locks & handles on all the exit doors so that they can be accessed for outside (this includes the hall door - for access for other groups)
* Window cleaning & power-hosing has been organised
* The fence repair at the tarmac area has been largely completed
* Staff have been doing a huge amount of work clearing classrooms, store-rooms and corridors
* Our secretary, Patricia has been incredible over the last few weeks in supporting everyone and everything that going on and our cleaner Josie Lavery has put in a lot of hours making sure everything is clean.
* The Board of Management is grateful to the parish for its support and cooperation for the space given over for school use which includes the computer room, the reception office and the exclusive use of the hall (along with Tru Beginnings Childcare). There will be no other activities in the hall during the week and no one coming into it.

Please check the school web site home page for links to Back to School information for parents and for links to videos you can watch with your children

Le gach dea ghuí,

Eimear Ní Bhraonáin, Príomhoide