



# Loreto Secondary School Clonmel

Coleville Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

As the start of the new school year is just upon us, we want to remind you of the start of school year dates.

## Arrangements for Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020

**1<sup>st</sup> Years (1 class group only)**

**NEW STUDENTS ONLY (any year)**

- First Years, one group at a time for induction and IT training
- **Students new to the school ONLY** will be in school from 10:15am to 1:10pm, when you will meet a student who will be in your year group.

## Arrangements for Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

**1<sup>st</sup> Years and 6<sup>th</sup> Years**

- All 1<sup>st</sup> years for normal classes all day
- All **6<sup>th</sup> Years** return to school for normal classes all day

## Arrangements for Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

**1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Years**

- All 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years for normal classes all day
- All **5<sup>th</sup> Years** and **3<sup>rd</sup> Years** return to school for normal classes all day

## Arrangements for Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**All Year Groups**

- All 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years for normal classes all day
- All **2<sup>nd</sup> Years** for normal classes all day
- All **TY for Induction Day** all day

## Arrangements for Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**All Year Groups**

- Normal classes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year all day
- First day of Work Experience for TYs
- **Leaving Cert results day – we may need to reorganise the school day to facilitate our outgoing 6<sup>th</sup> Years**

## Arrangements for Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**All Year Groups**

- Normal classes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year all day
- **TY Bonding Day** all day

We want to reassure you we realise that, although our students have been participating in remote learning, they have not been in school since Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020. It will be strange settling back into a new routine – but we will all work together on this.

**Please bring the following each day with you, clearly labelled with your name:**

- A4 refill pad
- Pencil case (with basic supplies e.g. pens, pencil, sharpener and eraser)
- Reusable Water Bottle (filled)
- A snack for your break and packed lunch for lunch break
- The canteen will be open also for **PRE-ORDERS** only – **EXACT** money will be needed
- Please arrange to **have a school bag with you** for your journal, A4 refill pad, pencil case and lunch
- Zip-mesh bag (see *page 4* for details)
- All teachers will be using eBooks on Data Projectors **so books should be left at home**

**Please do not bring:**

- School books

**In addition, 1<sup>st</sup> Years, 2<sup>nd</sup> Years and 3<sup>rd</sup> Years will need:**

- Tablet/device (you might wish to consider putting a protective cover on this for safety)
- Tablets should be fully charged each day and clearly labelled

## **COVID-19 Information**

We will work together and learn together about what is safe to do within the constraints of COVID-19 over the first few days, weeks and months.

### **1. Masks**

**The government has made the wearing of cloth face coverings in schools mandatory.** This is a directive to us and is not a school-based rule.

### **2. Symptoms**

A student who has any of the symptoms of COVID-19 **should not attend school** and parents/guardians should seek medical advice:

- a fever (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above)
- a cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry
- shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

### **3. Students displaying symptoms while on campus**

Parents/guardians, in the case of their child developing potential Covid-19 symptoms while on campus, are required have their child collected child within a **one-hour period** from the time of notification.

### **4. The Schools Reopening Section of the Department of Education has sent us this information:**

*"Government policy, which is based on official public health advice, continues to advise against non-essential travel overseas for everyone.*

*It is a requirement for anyone coming into Ireland, from locations other than those with a rating of 'normal precautions' ("green"), to restrict their movements for 14 days, and this includes school staff, parents and children or other students coming from abroad to attend school in Ireland. Restricting your movements means staying indoors in one location and avoiding contact with other people and social situations as much as possible."*

## 5. Follow all HSE advice pertaining to COVID-19

Read *page 5* for HSE Advice and consult the HSE [website](#) for further advice. We request that you to keep up-to-date with any new government and/or HSE advice

## 6. Visits by Parents/Guardians to the school

Visits to the school will be severely restricted and visitors will be asked to:

- Make a **prior appointment** before visiting the school
- Parents/Guardians (and others visitors) will be asked to complete a self declaration form
- Remain at home if they have any Covid-19 symptoms
- Follow the agreed Covid-19 protocols for the school campus and adhere to the advice given to them
- **Parents/Guardians (and others visitors) should wait in their vehicles and call reception for direction**
- Sanitise before entering and also exiting the premises
- Entry and exit will be recorded by administrative staff
- Wear PPE if instructed – **face masks are mandatory** and you will be notified of any other requirements
- Adhere to social distancing requirements

There will be a drop zone and letter box inside the main school door in case you urgently to deliver something for your daughter. Label this carefully. Please do not leave cash at the drop zone.

However, we do ask that you refrain from coming onto the school grounds unless essential and with prior permission.

## 7. Drop Off and Collection

As students in every year are leaving their books at home parents/guardians are asked to use Suirside car park for drop offs and collection and allow their daughter to walk over the bridge to school. STAFF CARS ONLY ARE PERMITTED IN THE SCHOOL CAR PARK.

The school will be open from 8am each day. Students are not permitted on the campus before 8am and must have left the premises 15 minutes after the end of the school day.

## 8. Lunch Time

We have taken advice and feel that for a trial period until Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September we will keep all students on the campus at lunch time. Thanks to our senior students for their understanding and support with this change to our routine.

## 9. Addition to the Code of Behaviour

Please see this [link](#) to read the *Addition to Code of Behaviour for Return to School* following closure due to Covid-19.

## 10. Remote Teaching and Learning Policy

Please click this [link](#) and make yourself familiar with this policy. This policy applies whether the student is attending a live class from within the school building or from a location outside the school premises.

## 11. Information we have already provided

To read the information we have already provided see this [link](#) with many relevant updates and you can also read all other [letters to families](#) .

## 12. Information from the Minister of Education

We have received a letter from The Minister who has asked that we ensure that parents/guardians receive the following, important information from the Department and the HSE with regard to returning to school.

- Video for parents with key information on supporting children to return to school available [here](#) and [here](#)
- Fliers for parents/guardians are available for download [here](#). The HSE has prepared material on recognising symptoms, which complements the material from the Department on returning to school. This is available [here](#)
- Age-appropriate videos for children and young people at different stages. Videos for primary (both junior and senior level) and post-primary students are available [here](#)
- Resources in a wide range of languages. Many schools will enjoy a huge diversity among their student and parent/guardian community. To support these parents/guardians the Department of Education has translated guidance for parents/guardians at [gov.ie/backtoschool](http://gov.ie/backtoschool).

The Covid-19 World Service project has also consulted with the Department and has used our key messages to produce a range of videos in a variety of languages which the school community may find helpful – please see more at <https://nascireland.org/covid-19-world-service>

Parents/guardians should be made aware that where there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 amongst school staff or pupils, schools will be required to follow the public health instruction of the HSE Public Health.

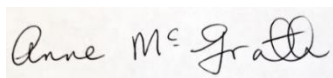
The National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) has developed webinars and resources to support the wellbeing of school communities, which are all available at [gov.ie/backtoschool](http://gov.ie/backtoschool).

## 13. Keep us informed

Please contact us at [reception@loretoclonmel.ie](mailto:reception@loretoclonmel.ie) if your daughter for any reason cannot attend the beginning of the school year at the relevant date. The health and safety of all in our school depends on everyone following all government guidelines.

We are very much looking forward to meeting you all again. Please see below our start of school year prayer for every member of the Loreto School Community.

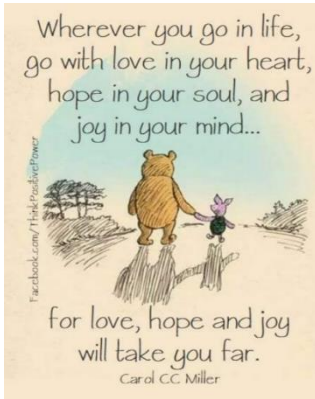
Yours faithfully,



Anne Mc Grath,  
Principal



Sarah Rice,  
Deputy Principal



## Our start of school year prayer:

May our school community be a place of **love, laughter and learning**.

Open our minds to the possibilities that this year holds.  
Open our eyes to the wonder of each new day.

Fill each of us with love, hope and joy so that we have a fresh enthusiasm and a heart that is excited to learn and grow.

### Items for your Zip-Mesh Bag

All students are expected to have a zip-mesh bag (*clearly labelled with student's name*) with the following items which you check and refresh on a Friday night in readiness for Monday morning:

➤ **Hand sanitiser**

➤ **Face cloth** (to use as hand towel)

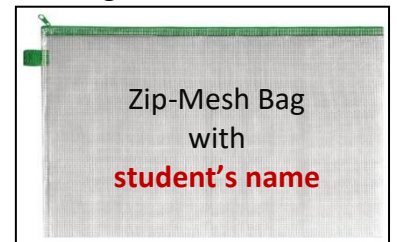
➤ **Headphones**

*(needed if using devices with sound which may be the case if tuning into a teacher from a separate classroom – if possible, please don't bring large headphones, bring small headphones e.g. mobile phone ones)*

➤ **Face Mask**

*It is compulsory to wear a cloth face mask - please have a spare one with you each day.*

➤ **Pack of Antibacterial Wipes**



#### Note:

- **Clearly label all items with the student's name.**
- **For hygiene reasons students are not permitted to share these (or any other items).**

## HSE Advice

Further advice is available at this [link](#)

### Protect yourself and others from getting sick

## Wash your hands


- after coughing or sneezing
- when caring for the sick
- before and after you prepare food
- before eating
- after toilet use
- when hands are visibly dirty
- after touching cuts, blisters or any open sores
- you can use alcohol hand rub, if hands are not visibly dirty









**RESIST** [www.hse.ie/handhygiene](http://www.hse.ie/handhygiene)



## Coronavirus COVID-19




### Help prevent coronavirus

-  Wash your hands
-  Cover mouth if coughing or sneezing
-  Avoid touching your face
-  Keep surfaces clean
-  Stop shaking hands and hugging
-  Keep a safe distance

The virus spreads in sneeze and cough droplets, so regularly taking the above measures helps reduce the chance of it spreading.

**Visit HSE.ie**  
For updated factual information and advice  
Or call 1850 24 1850

Protection from coronavirus. It's in our hands.



## How to use Face Coverings



ALWAYS CLEAN YOUR HANDS BEFORE AND AFTER WEARING A FACE COVERING

### Correct Covering

Medical masks should be reserved for health workers or patients in treatment. If you have been advised to wear a medical mask, always have the coloured side showing and the metal band at the top of your nose.

### Check Your Fit

Check that the face covering is made from a fabric that you are comfortable wearing.

Check that it is easy to fit and completely covers your nose and mouth, all the way down under your chin.

Tighten the loops or ties so it's snug around your face, without gaps. If there are straps, tie them high on top of the head to get a good fit. Do not touch or fidget with the face covering when it is on.

**DO NOT:** Wear the face covering below your nose.

**DO NOT:** Leave your chin exposed.

**DO NOT:** Wear it loosely with gaps on the sides.

**DO NOT:** Wear it so it covers just the tip of your nose.

**DO NOT:** Push it under your chin to rest on your neck.



### FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO STAY SAFE:

- ALWAYS wash your hands before and after handling your face covering.
- ALWAYS change your face covering if it is dirty, wet or damaged.
- Carry unused face coverings in a sealed clean waterproof bag, for example, a ziplock.
- Carry a second similar type bag, to put used face coverings in.
- CHILDREN UNDER 13 should not wear face coverings.
- ALWAYS wash cloth face coverings on the highest temperature for cloth.

### Safe Removal

Use the ties or ear loops to take the face covering off. Do not touch the front when you take it off.

### Disposing Of Single-Use Mask

Always dispose of single-use masks properly in a bin. Don't forget to clean your hands and keep social distance.

**Stay safe. Protect each other.**



## Coronavirus COVID-19



### How to use hand sanitiser

- > Rub hands for hygiene
- > Remember washing with soap and water is still best (and essential if your hands are visibly dirty)

-  1. Apply a squirt of sanitiser
-  2. Rub your hands palm to palm
-  3. Rub between your fingers
-  4. Rub the back of each hand
-  5. Clean each thumb
-  6. Rub your fingertips in your palm
-  7. Once dry, you're done!

Remember, hand hygiene helps prevent COVID-19 spreading.

**#holdfirm**

Ireland's public health advice is guided by WHO and ECDC advice

