



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Kilmacanogue National School**

#### **Response Plan for the Re-opening of the School September 1<sup>st</sup> 2021**

1. When does school start/re-open?

School starts/reopens Wednesday September 1<sup>st</sup> when the school gates will open at 9:10am

For health and safety reasons, no children should be on the school premises before that time.

2. What about the Junior Infants?

The new Junior Infants will start school at 10am and finish at 12 noon from September 1<sup>st</sup> until September 10<sup>th</sup>.

This is to ensure their happy and above all safe first days at school especially during these worrying times of COVID and the new variant DELTA.

3. Do we still need to wear masks/face coverings?

Sadly, it looks as though the wearing of masks/face coverings will be with us all for a while yet. It is therefore mandatory to wear a mask/face covering once you are on school grounds which extends from the black gate

4. What happens if my child is anxious or nervous starting school or returning to school?

Please be assured that everyone in Kilmacanogue National School will be looking out for all the children and will be especially mindful of those children who are in anyway anxious or nervous. We will of course keep you fully updated regarding your child's well-being, so please DO NOT WORRY. 😊

5. Do children have to wear their school uniform?

Yes, please. The school uniform is as the Uniform Policy on [www.kilmacschool.ie](http://www.kilmacschool.ie) with trousers/skirts worn 3 days a week and tracksuits worn twice a week. Once the children are back in school, their teachers will let them know what days they will have PE days and will also let the children know when they will be able to wear their tracksuits especially during the good weather.....

6. Do the children bring their school bags to school?

Yes.....but.....only for the **FIRST** day when they will be carrying **ALL** their school books. After that, their books will stay in school. So, no need for school bags after that because the plastic boxes will be used as before for storage and quarantining

7. Will my child need to bring their own pencils and pens etc?

Ideally your child should provide their own school stationery in a small plastic container /pencil case (with their name clearly labelled) as per their class booklist.

8. Should I label everything belonging to my child?

Yes PLEASE!! Especially coats and jumpers! Bottles, books, copies, lunch boxes etc

9. Will my child get homework?

Homework will not be as it was before because, '**What's in school stays in school and what's at home stays at home**'. Blended learning and

worksheets will be continued as before with the children being given time to do their 'homework' in school at the end of the day when appropriate.

10. Will children bring their lunches with them?

Yes. A sturdy Ziploc bag or plastic lunch box which is easily opened by the children containing their lunch should be brought by the children to school.

11. Will children wear their coats?

Yes, if the weather is wet and cold. During the cold days, it would be advisable that the children be wrapped up warmly as the windows in the classrooms may be opened to facilitate ventilation.

12. What do 'Pods' and 'Bubbles' mean?

These are words being promoted by the Department of Education and Skills. Basically, a 'Bubble' is the whole class group and a 'Pod' is a little group within each class. These ideas have been in use in Primary Schools for years! In the current climate of COVID – 19, classes or 'Bubbles' will not be playing or mixing with other classes or 'Bubbles'. 'Pods' within classrooms, will maintain their social distance of 1 metre from other 'Pods' in their classrooms as far as is possible. The same children will stay in a 'Pod' together. The members of each 'Pod' group will change from time to time to facilitate children working with different children, while still maintaining the 'Pod' system and social distancing.

13. Will children/adults from Kilmacanogue National School be allowed on the school premises before school starts?

The short answer is 'NO'. This is for health and safety reasons

14. What happens if my child is not feeling well?

If your child is clearly unwell, please do not send him/her to school especially if your child is exhibiting any of the signs associated with COVID-19. Check out the guidelines on the HSE website outlining the symptoms. If a child is unwell in school his/her parents/guardians will be

contacted immediately and asked to come to collect their child. There are procedures in place.

15. What happens if my child's class teacher is unwell?

If a teacher is unwell, the school will be notified as early as possible whereupon alternative arrangements will be put in place so that your child's class will have a teacher to teach them. If these alternative arrangements such as sourcing a substitute for the day or as long as required are not successful, then the parents/guardians of the children in the particular class whose teacher is absent will be contacted as early as possible on the morning of the teacher's absence, and asked not to send their children into school that day. Unfortunately, classes can no longer be split up and distributed among other classes as in olden times because of the necessity of maintaining the COVID-19 protocols and social distance requirements in accordance with HSE and gov.ie guidelines.

16. Will it be possible to call to the school or to talk to my child's teacher?

Yes indeed but sadly, the days of casually dropping up to the school are, for the time being, on hold. Only those who have made an appointment with the principal/teacher or have urgent business may access the school building.

17. What happens if my child is unavoidably late for school?

Your child should make his/her way to the school entrance door and press the buzzer. A member of staff will then open the door and accompany your child to his/her class. Younger children should be accompanied by their parents/guardians to the school entrance door.

18. What do I do if my family or a member of my family has been abroad on holidays or has been in contact with anyone suffering from COVID-19?

A form will be sent to every parent/guardian which will need to be filled out fully before your child returns to school. This is similar to what has been filled in before. Once filled out, this form can be emailed to the school before your child starts school. It is very important to follow all updated and current HSE and gov.ie guidelines which have changed since last year

especially regarding the return from holidays abroad from certain countries.

19. Will there be after-school activities?

Sadly, for the foreseeable future, there will be no after-school activities.

20. What do I do with any money I owe the school/teacher?

Please put any money (cash/cheques) owed to the school/teacher into an envelope with your child's name and class written clearly on the envelope as well as mentioning what the money is for. You or your child can then leave it in a box as instructed by the class teacher or school secretary.

21. Will the school be offering a facility whereby parents/guardians may pay school fees/expenses through online banking?

Yes. The online banking system via Aladdin has been set up by the school admin office. Anyone needing help with this, please contact the school office and you will be informed and guided in what steps need to be taken to avail of this facility.