



# St. Ciarán's Community School

Navan Rd., Kells, Co.Meath

Web: [www.stciaranscs.ie](http://www.stciaranscs.ie)

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Dear Parent/guardian

We hope this letter finds you and your families well and that you have had some time to enjoy the nice weather and the summer break together.

The time has now come for us to return to school and while we do so with care and caution in these unprecedented times, we know that a return to education is vital for the health and wellbeing of students as a whole.

Please note we have had to make some **amendments** to the dates for students returning to school. We will have a staggered return to school for students to allow them the time to familiarise themselves with the changes that have taken place in the school.

Date	Year Group	Time
Friday 28th August	1st Year	8.45 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Monday 31st August	5th Year and TY	8.45 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Tuesday 1st September	6th Year and 3rd Year	8.45 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Wednesday 2nd September	2nd Year and LCA Year 1 and Year 2	8.45 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Thursday 3rd September	1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> Year	8.45 a.m. – 3.45 p.m.
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Year	8.45 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> Year	8.45 a.m. – 3.45 p.m.
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	All Students	8.45 a.m. – 3.45 p.m.

Understandably, everyone will be a little anxious at this time as we try to return to some form of normality and to settle into a new routine. The past few months have brought about many changes in our lives and we have all had to make sacrifices. We can assure you that we have been working tirelessly over the past few weeks to ensure that our school is adhering to social distancing procedures and to the advice given by the Department of Education who have developed a *Roadmap for the Full Return to School* in line with public health advice issued by the Health Protection Surveillance centre (HPSC) and in compliance with the *“Return to Work Safely Protocols”* developed by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and the Department of Health with guidance from the Health and Safety Authority. At first, some changes will take a while to get used to but in time will become a normal part of our routine.

During school closure it was a collective response from students, parents and staff and we would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff who adapted quickly, using a variety of resources in order to ensure that students continued their education despite difficult circumstances.

We look forward to welcoming our in-coming first years and understand that even in normal times, the transition from Primary to Post Primary can be both exciting and challenging but we assure you that we have continued to liaise with all our feeder Primary schools planning for your arrival.

Each workplace is required to have a COVID-19 Response Plan and this document sets out the things our school needs to implement for the safe operation of our school through the prevention, early detection and control of COVID19. This document focuses on the practical steps which our school has taken to minimise the risk of infection while recognising that no interpersonal activity is without risk of transmission of infection at any time. Our full document can be accessed on our website at [www.stciaranscs.ie](http://www.stciaranscs.ie) . We have also put together a shorter document for parents and students which outlines the key changes St Ciaran's Community School have had to make in order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all. We hope that it will answer any questions you may have and that it can be a guide to students who no doubt are anxious about returning.

All staff and students have an obligation to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of their colleagues, peers and other parties. The cooperation and assistance of all staff, students and parents/guardians is essential to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 and to protect health & safety as far as possible within the school. We all have a key role to play and we hope that together we can work to ensure our school and all who learn and teach in it are as safe and as healthy as possible. We ask that if possible, parents/guardians do not enter the school building unless pre-arranged with the school office. While we understand that this is not what you have been accustomed to, it is in the interest of Health & Safety that we minimise the number of visitors to our school.

We look forward to working with and communicating with you in the safest possible way over the next school year. We thank you for your on-going support in ensuring that all students are getting the best possible chance in life and we appreciate your on-going efforts with home-schooling ensuring that no student is left behind.

Should you have any questions please contact us at the school office and we will be happy to discuss any difficulties you may have.

Kind regards



Principal



Deputy Principal