

Dromín N.S.



Plan for Re-opening of the School September 2020

This document has been prepared on the basis of current public health advice and will continue to be updated throughout the school year as further public advice is received.

Underlying Principles

- The school has a responsibility to make every effort to ensure the safety, health and well-being of all members of our school community – children, parents and staff. This plan has been formulated to better ensure that the school can exercise that duty of care.
- Assuming it is in keeping with public health advice and guidelines issued by the Department of Education and Skills, it is preferable for all children to return to school for all five days of the school week and for a full school day. This plan has been formulated to achieve that aim.
- **It is not possible to eliminate the risk of infection.** However, with the co-operation of all members of our school community, it is possible to minimise the risk of the virus being introduced to school and the consequent risk of its spread.
- As well as co-operation, the flexibility and goodwill of all will be required to ensure the plan can be implemented.

Assumptions

- All children return to school and classes operate within a bubble system
- The school is split into 4 groups with the groups having staggered arrival times, starting times, break times, lunch times and finishing times.
- Groups will include JI & SI, 1st & 2nd Class, 3rd & 4th Class and 5th & 6th Class.
- The day will include break and lunch for all classes.
- Within each class from 3rd to 6th, the children will be further divided into pods.
- The message of the importance of good hand hygiene will be emphasised to all pupils and an awareness programme will continue to highlight this. Signage in all classes, toilets and throughout the school will reinforce this message.
- Handwashing and sanitising will be advised for all staff and pupils on arrival to school.
- Hand sanitiser will be available at all entry points in the classrooms.
- Handwashing and sanitising will be advised for all staff and pupils when leaving school.

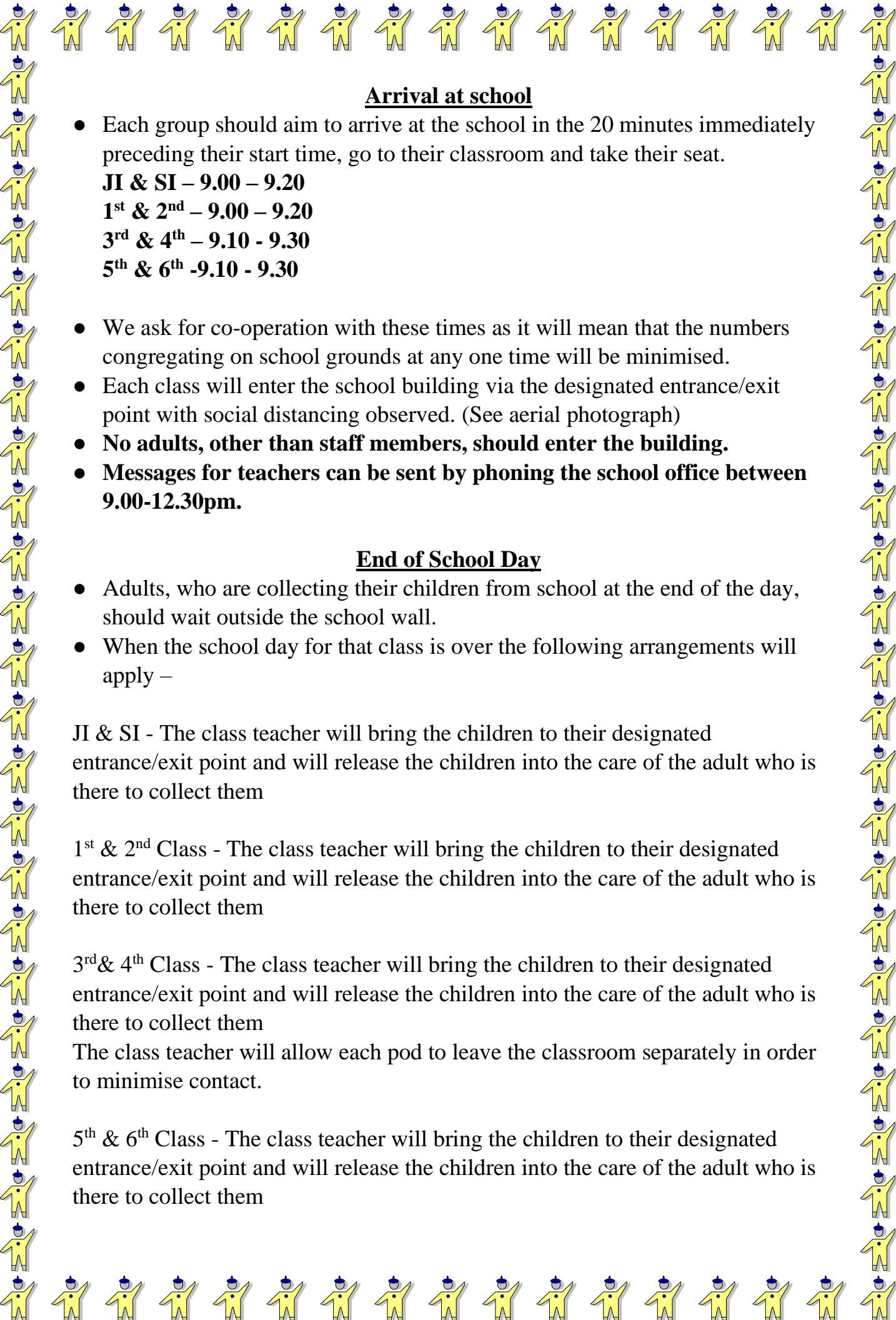
Timetables

JI & SI	1 st & 2 nd
9.00 – Arrival time	9.00 – Arrival time
9.20 – School start	9.20 – School start
10.50 – Break time	11.00 – Break time
11.00 – Class resumes	11.10 – Class resumes
12.15 – Lunch time	12.45 – Lunch time
12.45 – Class resumes	1.15 – Class resumes
2.00 – Infant classes finish	3.00 - Classes finish
3 rd & 4 th	5 th & 6 th
9.10 – Arrival time	9.10 – Arrival time
9.30 – School start	9.30 – School start
10.50 – Break time	11.00 – Break time
11.00 – Class resumes	11.10 – Class resumes
12.15 – Lunch time	12.45 – Lunch time
12.45 – Class resumes	1.15 – Class resumes
3.10 – Classes finish	3.10 - Classes finish

Designated Entrance / Exit Points

(See aerial photograph of Dromin NS)

1. Main door – 5th & 6th Class
2. Second front door – JI & SI
3. Double doors – 1st & 2nd Class
4. Emergency exit classroom door – 3rd & 4th Class
5. Emergency exit classroom door – 1st & 2nd Class (break and lunch only)
6. Side Gate – Exit 1
7. Centre Gate – Exit 2
8. Side Gate – Exit 3



Arrival at school

- Each group should aim to arrive at the school in the 20 minutes immediately preceding their start time, go to their classroom and take their seat.
JI & SI – 9.00 – 9.20
1st & 2nd – 9.00 – 9.20
3rd & 4th – 9.10 - 9.30
5th & 6th -9.10 - 9.30
- We ask for co-operation with these times as it will mean that the numbers congregating on school grounds at any one time will be minimised.
- Each class will enter the school building via the designated entrance/exit point with social distancing observed. (See aerial photograph)
- **No adults, other than staff members, should enter the building.**
- **Messages for teachers can be sent by phoning the school office between 9.00-12.30pm.**

End of School Day

- Adults, who are collecting their children from school at the end of the day, should wait outside the school wall.
- When the school day for that class is over the following arrangements will apply –

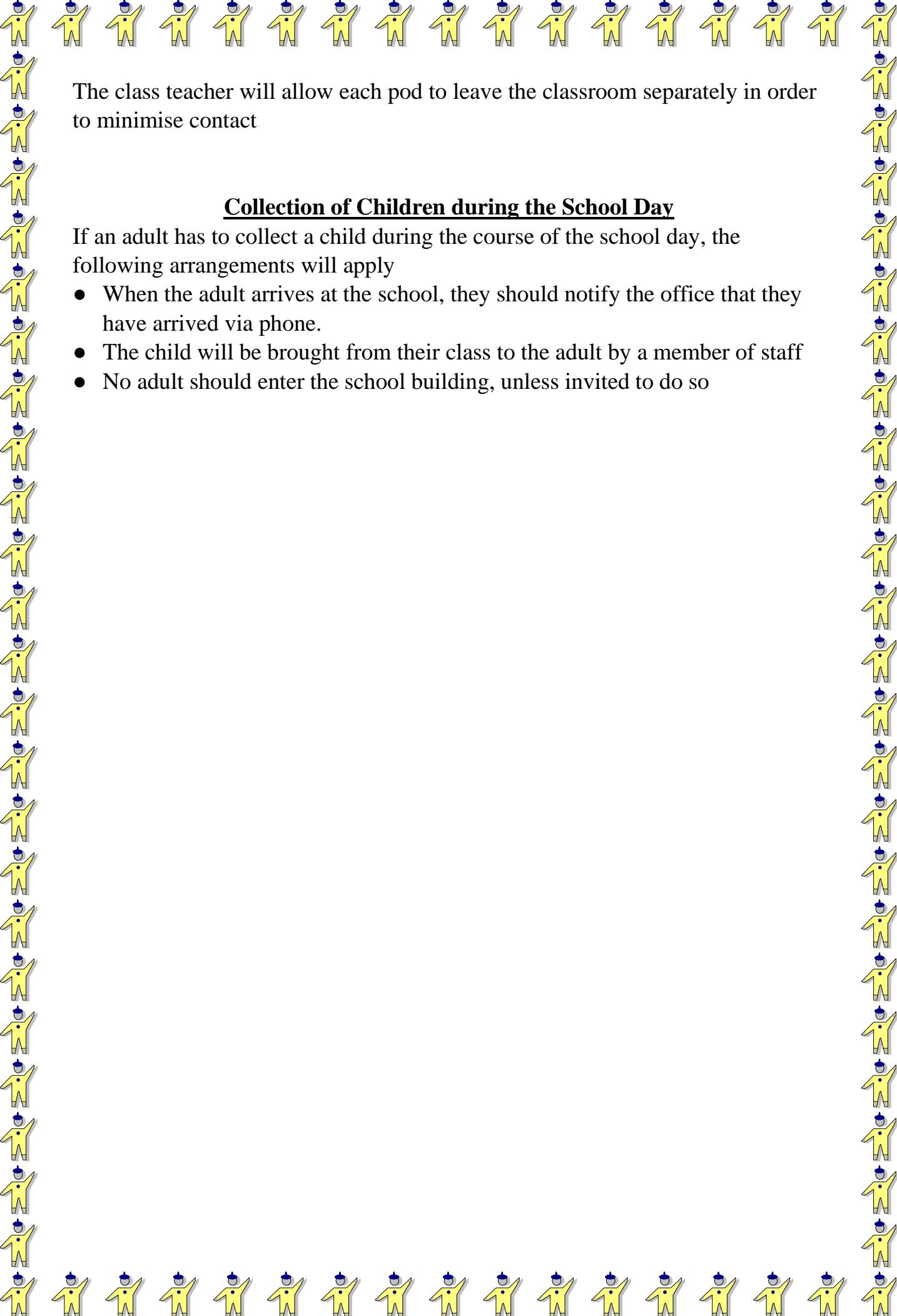
JI & SI - The class teacher will bring the children to their designated entrance/exit point and will release the children into the care of the adult who is there to collect them

1st & 2nd Class - The class teacher will bring the children to their designated entrance/exit point and will release the children into the care of the adult who is there to collect them

3rd & 4th Class - The class teacher will bring the children to their designated entrance/exit point and will release the children into the care of the adult who is there to collect them

The class teacher will allow each pod to leave the classroom separately in order to minimise contact.

5th & 6th Class - The class teacher will bring the children to their designated entrance/exit point and will release the children into the care of the adult who is there to collect them



The class teacher will allow each pod to leave the classroom separately in order to minimise contact

Collection of Children during the School Day

If an adult has to collect a child during the course of the school day, the following arrangements will apply

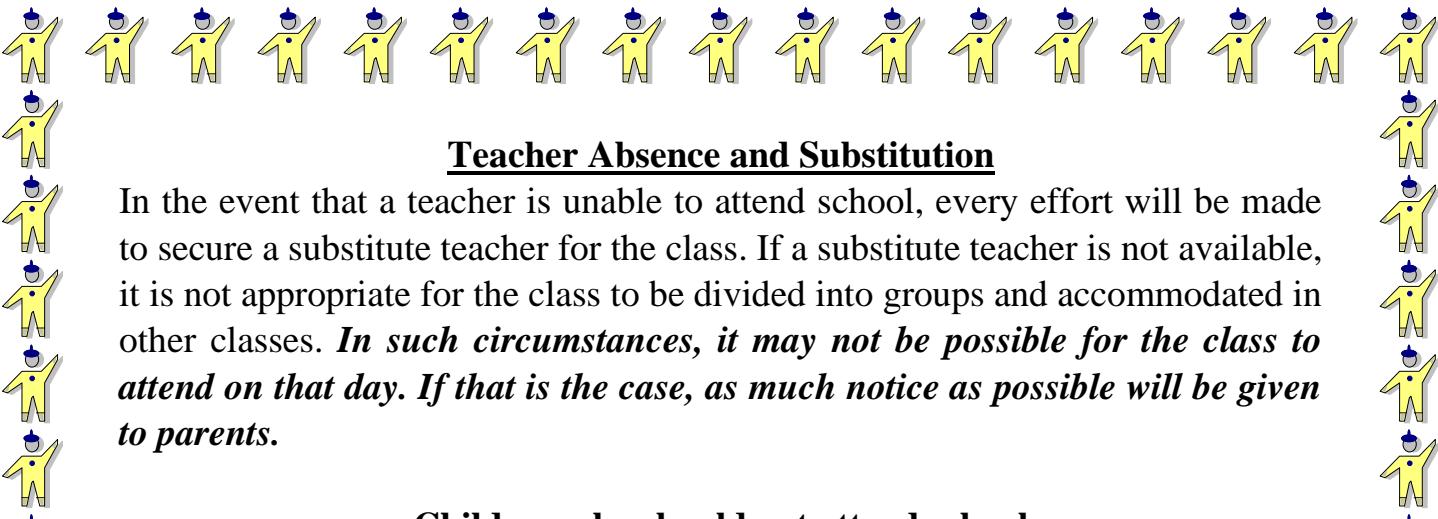
- When the adult arrives at the school, they should notify the office that they have arrived via phone.
- The child will be brought from their class to the adult by a member of staff
- No adult should enter the school building, unless invited to do so

Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19

Pupils should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of Covid-19. If a pupil displays symptoms of Covid-19 while in the building, the following procedures will be implemented:

- Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately
- The child will be accompanied to the designated isolation area (staff room) by a member of staff. The staff member will remain at least 2 metres away from the symptomatic child and will also make sure that others maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from the symptomatic child at all times
- A mask will be provided for the child presenting with symptoms, if one is available. He/she should wear the mask if in a common area with other people or while exiting the premises
- An assessment will be made as to whether the child who is displaying symptoms can immediately be brought home by parents and call their doctor and continue self-isolation at home
- The school will facilitate the child presenting with symptoms to remain in isolation, if they cannot immediately go home, and will assist them by calling their GP.
- The child presenting with symptoms should be advised to cover their mouth and nose with the disposable tissue provided when they cough or sneeze and to put the tissue in the waste bag provided
- If the child is well enough to go home, the school will arrange for them to be transported home by a family member, as soon as possible, and advise them to inform their GP by phone of their symptoms.
- If they are too unwell to go home or advice is required, the school will contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick child is a Covid-19 suspect.
- Arrangements will be made for appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and work areas involved.

The HSE will inform any staff/parents who have come into close contact with a diagnosed case via the contact tracing process. The HSE will contact all relevant persons where a diagnosis of COVID-19 is made. The instructions of the HSE should be followed.



Teacher Absence and Substitution

In the event that a teacher is unable to attend school, every effort will be made to secure a substitute teacher for the class. If a substitute teacher is not available, it is not appropriate for the class to be divided into groups and accommodated in other classes. ***In such circumstances, it may not be possible for the class to attend on that day. If that is the case, as much notice as possible will be given to parents.***

Children who should not attend school

If your child is in one of the following categories, they should not attend school-

- Children who have been diagnosed with Covid-19
- Children who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19
- Children who have a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
- Children who have been in contact with a person who has a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
- Children with underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school
- Children who have returned home after travelling abroad and must self-isolate for a period of 14 days
- Children who are generally unwell

Supporting the Learning of Children who cannot attend school

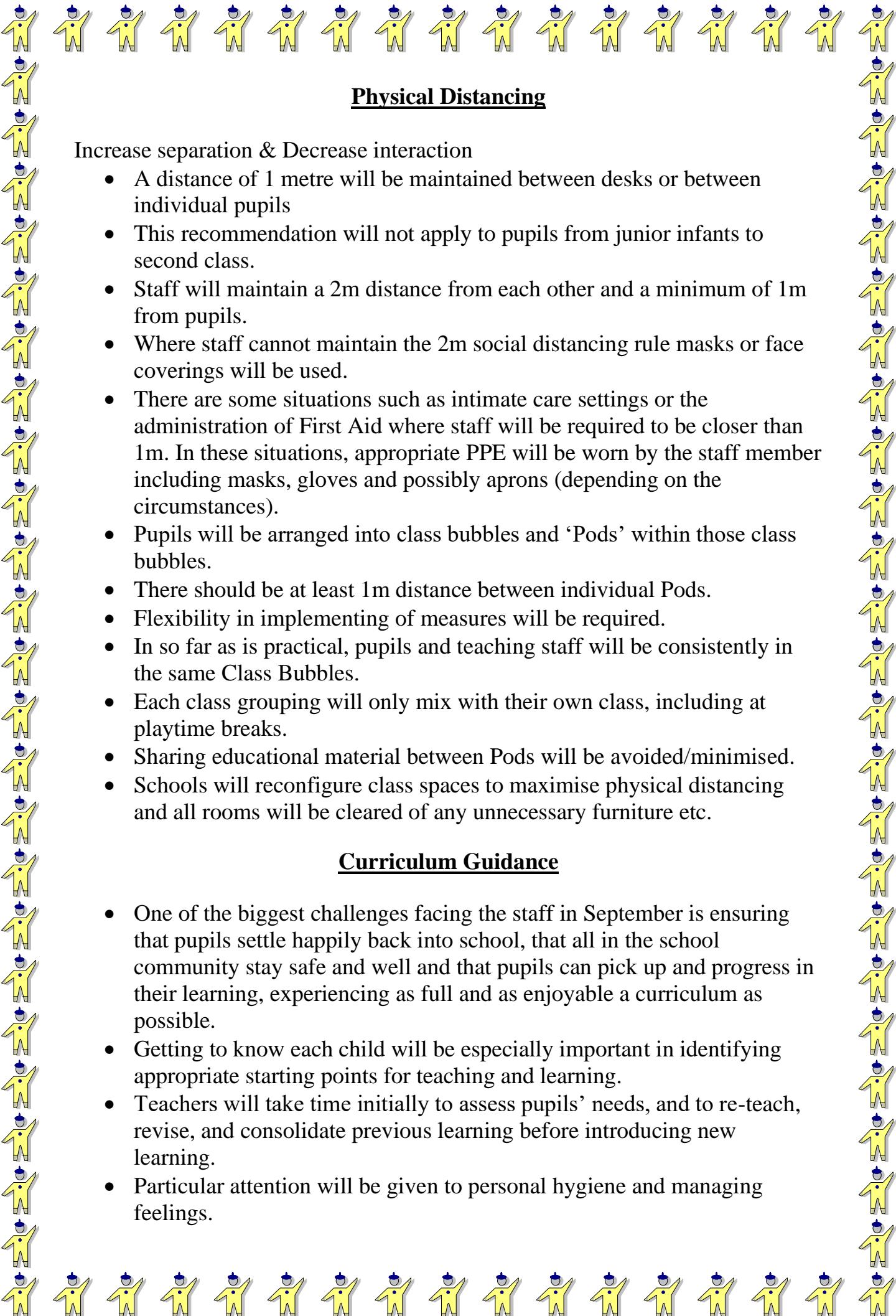
If a child is not able to attend school for an extended period of time, the class teacher and the learning support teacher will suggest activities to support the child's learning at home using an online platform if needed.

Impact of a Suspected or Confirmed Case of Covid-19 in a Class

If the school is notified that a person in your child's class has a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19

- The parents of all children in the class will be notified
- Public health advice will be sought and followed





Physical Distancing

Increase separation & Decrease interaction

- A distance of 1 metre will be maintained between desks or between individual pupils
- This recommendation will not apply to pupils from junior infants to second class.
- Staff will maintain a 2m distance from each other and a minimum of 1m from pupils.
- Where staff cannot maintain the 2m social distancing rule masks or face coverings will be used.
- There are some situations such as intimate care settings or the administration of First Aid where staff will be required to be closer than 1m. In these situations, appropriate PPE will be worn by the staff member including masks, gloves and possibly aprons (depending on the circumstances).
- Pupils will be arranged into class bubbles and ‘Pods’ within those class bubbles.
- There should be at least 1m distance between individual Pods.
- Flexibility in implementing of measures will be required.
- In so far as is practical, pupils and teaching staff will be consistently in the same Class Bubbles.
- Each class grouping will only mix with their own class, including at playtime breaks.
- Sharing educational material between Pods will be avoided/minimised.
- Schools will reconfigure class spaces to maximise physical distancing and all rooms will be cleared of any unnecessary furniture etc.

Curriculum Guidance

- One of the biggest challenges facing the staff in September is ensuring that pupils settle happily back into school, that all in the school community stay safe and well and that pupils can pick up and progress in their learning, experiencing as full and as enjoyable a curriculum as possible.
- Getting to know each child will be especially important in identifying appropriate starting points for teaching and learning.
- Teachers will take time initially to assess pupils’ needs, and to re-teach, revise, and consolidate previous learning before introducing new learning.
- Particular attention will be given to personal hygiene and managing feelings.

- Teachers will continue to provide a broad range of active learning experiences for all pupils. These include play-based learning, inquiry-based learning, talk and discussion, use of digital technologies, and learning in the environment.
- The staff will be prioritising certain aspects of the curriculum including Language, Mathematics and SPHE.

Learning Support

In keeping with our Special Education policy, learning support will be provided by a blended approach of in-class support and withdrawal. The provision of support will be organised to ensure our support teacher will work within the confines of a bubble.

- Where a support teacher is working alongside a class teacher in a classroom, both teachers must be mindful of maintaining social distance from one another.
- Where children from 3rd to 6th Class receive support in one of the SET rooms, social distancing of 1 metre will be maintained between each child in the group.
- The support teacher will be assigned to a classroom group per day.
- The support teacher will be available for online teaching and learning where applicable.

Homework

- Pupils will only need to bring themselves, schoolbags, their lunch and their coat to school.
- The staff will give consideration to the best delivery of a model of homework in due course.
- There may be no homework for pupils in the initial phase of the return to school as the staff focus on pupils' wellbeing, assessment and social integration.

Uniforms

- There is no mention of uniforms (or clothing in general) in the guidance documents and so we expect pupils to wear the school uniform in line with school policy as usual.

Personal Equipment

- In so far as possible, it is requested that children from 1st to 6th Class will bring their own pens, pencils, colours, rubbers, etc., to school in their own pencil case to avoid the sharing of equipment.
- It is further requested that all items have the child's name on them for ease of identification.
- For children in Junior and Senior Infants, the school will provide a pouch or container which will hold each child's pencils, crayons, etc., and which will be labelled with their name.
- Although there are many hand sanitising stations available throughout the school, we encourage all children to bring in their own personal bottle of hand sanitiser.

Shared Equipment

By necessity, some classroom equipment may need to be shared including tablets, laptops and the equipment used for structured activities and play in Infant classrooms. Cleaning of such shared equipment will take place at regular intervals to minimise the risk of the spread of infection. A professional cleaning company will come to the school during break times and in the evening to clean the school.

The Outdoor Environment

- At Dromin NS, we are fortunate to have extensive play areas and grounds at the pupils' disposal.
- The staff will be planning for more frequent use of the outdoor space across the curriculum in order to help children to adhere to social distancing, engage in physical activity, and build their sense of wellness and contentment.
- The staff will place emphasis on strands like Athletics or Outdoor and Adventure Activities with particular focus on the strand units of running, jumping, throwing and orienteering.
- The use of equipment should be confined to the sets that have been distributed to class groupings.
- We will be promoting physical activity and movement of a non-contact nature.

Yards

Yards will be supervised by class teachers, learning support teachers and SNA's working within those groups.

PPE

- Face masks / visors will be worn by staff during the day where social distancing cannot be maintained during teaching and learning.
- Staff who are attending to particular care needs or who are administering first aid will wear appropriate PPE including gloves and face masks.