



Tarbert Comprehensive School

11/8/20

Dear Parents & Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am touching base with you in an attempt to keep you up to speed on developments regarding our School reopening. I will try to keep in touch with you regularly over the coming weeks so as to let you know of our progress and also advise you of any new procedures the school will use after re-opening.

Dates

Firstly School reopening dates are re-arranged as follows with full days for all year groups and with school transport in full operation;

- Friday August 28th - Staff only
- Monday August 31st - Staff only
- Tuesday September 1st - 1st Year (all day) and LC2 mentors only
- Wednesday September 2nd – 1st Year, LC2 and LCA2 only
- Thursday September 3rd - 1st Year, 3rd Year & LC2/ LCA2 only
- Friday September 4th - 1st Year, 3rd Year, LC1/LCA1 & LC2/LCA2 only
- Monday September 7th - 1st Year, 2nd Year, 3rd Year, TY, LC1/LCA1, LC2/LCA2 (all year groups)

This **staggered return** is necessary in order for us to up skill staff, install equipment, clear rooms, install new furniture and instruct students on new requirements and procedures to ensure a successful reopening. Tarbert Comprehensive is currently a Covid-19 free School - we plan on doing everything within our power to keep it that way and so limit the spread of the virus.

School uniform

The **School uniform** is a requirement for all students on our reopen. A reminder that a phase-in period for the jumpers is still in place;

The new jumpers will be compulsory for:

- All 1st years who arrived in September 2019
- All new 1st years in September 2020 and
- All students in September 2021

It may be advisable to have spare uniforms in the event you wish to wash the uniform regularly.

Enhanced cleaning

The School is currently planning for an **enhanced cleaning regiment** during the school day. The cooperation of all students and staff (not just cleaning staff) will be vital in maintaining a Covid free environment for our community.

Parental visits

It is vital that any parents coming to the school (once we open) do so by **prior appointment or contact through the office**. In order to limit the spread of the virus – ‘drop in’ visits will not be permitted. Students who attempt to contact parents themselves will be reprimanded. Naturally any student who falls ill during the school day will be collected by their parents immediately and sent home. Again I wish to stress that parents can only arrive to the School by **prior appointment or contact through the office**. Unplanned arrivals to school can no longer be accommodated.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The School is currently preparing a student **PPE welcome kit** consisting of hand sanitiser, face masks, gloves (for some) and visor. However parents are requested to ensure students have a sufficient amount of their own reusable face masks for the duration of the school week. When, where and how those masks will be used will be explained to each student on their return.

Health & Illness

Parents are asked to keep their children at home if feeling unwell - those who have Covid symptoms or suspect they have the virus must stay out of school. This is an absolute must so as to reduce the threat of the spread of the virus. Any child that becomes unwell will be isolated near the office area and parents will be requested to collect them immediately.

Parents of students with any medical issues and who may be at high risk of COVID, are asked to contact me in advance of our reopening.

School App

Parents new to the school will be able to download the school app shortly. Meanwhile the School website will update you on all the current information you need

1st Year Book Rental collection

Finally the rental and collection of 1st Year school books has been arranged for next week. Can I ask parents to wear masks on arrival, socially distance and have the book rental fee ready for collection (€210 including school journal). Please follow any signage or direction from staff.

Collection dates and times are as follows:

<u>Surnames beginning with</u>	<u>Tuesday August 18th</u>	<u>Wednesday August 19th</u>
A to D	10 am to 11 am	
E to H	11 am to 12 noon	
I to Mc (only)	12 noon to 1 pm	
M to N		10 am to 11 am
O to P		11 am to 12 noon
R to Y		12 noon to 1 pm

Conclusion

As you can appreciate, the reopening of the School is quite onerous. However be assured staff are working hard to ensure a successful opening. Our approach to reopening will be guided by applying common sense, adopting a balanced approach, doing everything practical to avoid the introduction of COVID-19 into the School, being aware of continuing to observe physical distancing, good hand hygiene and good respiratory etiquette.

I want to thank parents for your patience, understanding, support and cooperation to date. **Working together** I am confident we will see school reopen in a few short weeks.

Kind Regards



Richard Prendiville

PRINCIPAL