

Principal: Pat Neenan
Deputy Principal: Ella O' Sullivan
Assistant Principal: Niamh Cronin
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An Scoil Náisiúnta Baile Deasumhan
Mala,
Co. Chorcaí
P51 CF30
064 7751351

Dear Parent(s)/Guardians,

In addition to the recent letters issued by Ballydesmond NS, we would like to draw your attention to the following pieces of general information regarding your child's return to school. Much more will be communicated in the coming days and weeks but for now we are focussing on these key messages:

Uniform

- As previously communicated, there is no guidance given about uniforms in the roadmap for reopening schools. What we ask in Ballydesmond NS is that the PE uniform is worn on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and the regular uniform should then be worn on Tuesday and Thursday. We also ask that the uniform is not worn for extended periods after school.

Copies

- While not compulsory, it would be helpful if parents could arrange for copies and books to be covered in plastic.

Lunches

- Children may bring their lunch to school as normal, adhering to our healthy eating policy. We ask that all lunches and bottles are washed before use the following day.

Bubbles and Pods

- A bubble refers to all the children who are part of a classroom. A pod refers to a small grouping within this bubble. While social distancing is not a requirement in Junior infants - 2nd class, these classrooms will operate a pod system as an extra safety measure.
- Social distancing is a requirement in 3rd-6th class. Through our reconfiguration of classrooms and use of the Community Centre, we are in the fortunate position to be able to distance every child the required 1m (Department of Education Guidelines) without the use of a pod system.
- Every bubble (classroom) will play together on yard as advised by the department, but there will be strictly no mixing between bubbles at any point during the school day. Every bubble will have their own unique area in which to play and their own entry/exit point to the school building.

Pencil cases/Stationary

- We request that children have two fully stocked pencil cases, one for each setting (home and school). There is to be no carrying of pencil cases/stationary between the two.

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Homework

- No homework will be given for the first few days of school. We will communicate in due course about the specific procedures that we will be implementing in this regard.

Hand Hygiene

- Extensive work will be undertaken by all staff to instill regular and effective hand hygiene practices. This will include a combination of hand washing and hand sanitising at various points throughout the day (Entry to school, meal times, after toilet use etc).

Classrooms

- Junior/Senior Infants - Room inside the main entrance (Same as last year)
- 1st/2nd class - Room beside the back entrance (3rd/4th classroom last year)
- 3rd/4th - Room beside the side entrance (5th/6th classroom last year)
- 5th/6th - Community Centre