



Welcome

Welcome back everyone, I hope you all had a lovely summer break. A special welcome to our new families. We welcome Dominykas Daugela, Max Hurley, John Joby, Alfie O'Sullivan Kearney, Marcell Dani, Lily Colakov, Luke Fallon-Redmond, Dale Good, Alice Grimes, Elina Nugent and Augustin Schaffhauser to Junior Infants, Cayden Booth and Jamie Blennerhassett to 2nd Class, Chloe Blennerhassett to 4th Class and Jamie Lee Gaertner to 6th Class. We wish you many happy years at St. Multose N.S.

We welcome Ms Emer Helen as 4th and 5th Class teacher and Ms Alana Nixon as Junior Infant, Senior Infant and 1st Class teacher. I will be on maternity leave from the start of the school year. Ms Kingston will be acting Principal, Ms Nestor will be acting Deputy Principal and Ms Buttimer will be Acting Assistant Principal II during my absence.

We welcome Ms Cliodhna O'Riordan, Ms Maria Dunn and we welcome back Ms Mary Deasy as Special Needs Assistants to our school.

As a staff, we are excited about what the 2021-2022 school year will behold! While all procedures and Covid-19 protocols will remain in place as directed by the Department of Education, we have a lot to look forward to!

We cannot wait to welcome our wonderful pupils back to school. We will continue to provide a safe, and secure

learning environment for each child enrolled at St. Multose National School.

Le meas,
Jill Horan.

Some gentle reminders...

The school day begins at 8.50 a.m.

Please ensure your children are in school on time every morning.

Please note that we will not be responsible for children arriving before 8:50 a.m.

- For the first week, Junior Infants will be collected at 12pm.
- From Monday, 6th September, Junior Infants will be collected at 1:30pm.
- Senior Infants will be collected at 1:30pm.
- Pupils from 1st Class – 6th will be collected at 2:30pm.

Please ensure that you arrive on time to collect your children. If you are late, it can make your child very anxious.

Before returning to school

Before returning to school on Tuesday, please ensure that you have filled in the 'Return to school declaration form' for each of your children by clicking on the following link: [Return to school declaration form](#). You can always access it from the homepage of the school website (see green box). This form needs to be filled in every time your child is absent from school or if a child is sent home early from school if feeling unwell but are well enough to then return the

next day. It can be easily filled in on any device.

Arriving to school

The same routine as last year remains in place.

- Pupils from Junior Infants to 3rd Class will enter via the front main gate and line up on their pod lines.
- Pupils from 4th to 6th Class will be dropped at the front of the school, and walk down the avenue and in through the back gate. They will line up on their pod lines on the tennis court.
- Due to 4th to 6th Class pupils walking down the avenue, cars are not permitted to park in the hall car park in the mornings. We encourage a drop and go system for all.
- Please do not congregate at the school gate and maintain a 2 metre distance. If you get out of your car, please wear a mask.
- Once pupils have arrived, a member of staff will take each child's temperature and each class teacher will take the children into their classrooms.
- Pupils will enter and leave their classrooms via the emergency exit doors. Síológa will enter and leave the school building via the main entrance.

Home-time

- The same routine as last year remains in place.
- Pupils from Junior Infants to 3rd Class will line up on their pod lines at the front gate.

- Pupils from 4th to 6th Class will line up on their pod lines on the tennis court.
- The teacher will dismiss each child as they see their parent.
- Parking in the hall car park is permitted at home time.

Permission to walk/cycle home

If your child is in 4th – 6th class and you feel your child is responsible enough to walk home, please complete the google form permission slip on the homepage of the school website 'Permission to walk home' (see green box) or click on this link: [Permission to walk home from school](#)

Absences

If your child is unwell or unable to attend school, please fill in the 'Absence Form' on the homepage of the school website (see the green box). The school is required by law to report unexplained absences, frequent absences or late arrivals to school to the Education Welfare Office, who will investigate the report.

Early Collection

If you need to collect your child early from school for any reason, please notify us, where possible, at least a day in advance by ringing or emailing the school to let us know. A member of staff will meet you at the main gate with your child at the specified time. You will need to sign your child out at the gate. This will be the same collection point if your child is sick and needs to be collected early.

Possessions

Please ensure all clothing and other possessions are clearly labelled with indelible ink. With Covid-19, we will be unable to go around to all the classrooms

with lost property. If there is no label, it will be donated to charity.

Mobile Phones and other devices

It is school policy for pupils not to have a mobile phone or personal electronic devices at school; however, the school understands that in some cases a pupil may have a valid reason for needing a mobile phone. Therefore, all pupils who need to have a mobile at school must fill in a permission slip stating the reasons why they need a phone at school. Please let us know if you would like us to send you the permission slip. The school does not take any responsibility for the safe keeping or care of pupils' phones. Phones must be switched off and stay in pupil's bags during school hours. Mobile phones cannot be taken on school excursions or camps. iPod touch, smart watched or any other form of handheld game or music player must not be brought into school. Parents will be contacted if these protocols are not followed.

Communication

News and upcoming events will be posted on the website/twitter and/or sent by email. Please check your emails regularly to keep up-to-date with school events.

Parking

There is reserved parking outside the school for our school buses. Please do not park in these spaces at any time. Please do not use the hall car park during the morning drop-off as pupils from 4th to 6th class will be walking down the avenue. You can use the hall car park for collection time only.

Change of Address/ Emergency Numbers/ Email Addresses

If you have changed any of these or your standby contacts, we would ask that you let the school secretary know immediately. This information is

necessary for the safety and care of your child during school hours.

School Uniform

A sky-blue polo shirt and official school jumper/sweatshirt are compulsory for all children every day. The sky-blue polo shirt and school jumper can be ordered from the school office. The sweatshirt is discontinued. Black footwear must be worn (runners permitted).

Navy school trousers, skirt, pinafore must be worn. These can be sourced from Dunnes Stores, Penneys, Marks and Spencer or Tesco. Leggings and branded bottoms are not permitted. Navy tracksuit bottoms and runners must be worn on P.E days.

PE Days

Navy tracksuit bottoms and runners must be worn on P.E days. The following are the PE days for each class:

- Síológa - Mondays
- Junior Room – Tuesdays
- 2nd and 3rd Class – Thursdays
- 4th and 5th Class – Wednesdays
- 6th Class – Wednesdays

GAA for 4th – 6th Class Pupils

Gaelic Football will commence for pupils from 4th – 6th Class on Wednesday 8th September. Please ensure that all pupils have a moulded gum shield with then every Wednesday.

Milk

If you would like to order milk for your child for the school term, please let Sue in the office know. You will be charged through our online billing system.

Homework Diaries

Your child will be given a homework diary on Tuesday. The cost is €3.80. This will be charged to you on the school bill.

Book Rental Scheme

Our school runs a book rental scheme. Your child will have access to a wide range of curricular school books throughout the school year. This scheme saves our parents money. This will be charged to you on the school bill next week. The cost is:

- €15 for the Junior Room
- €20 for 2nd and 3rd Class €25
- €25 for 4th, 5th and 6th Class.

Protocols with Covid-19

On Tuesday, your child will need to bring all their books to school in their schoolbag. They will leave everything in school, including their pencil case. Please make sure that your child has a second pencil case to use at home.

There will be no homework until Monday, 6th September. On Mondays, homework will be assigned for the week. Initially, there will only be learning and reading homework. Most homework books will stay at home for the week and be returned to school on Fridays. Your child's teacher will let you know otherwise.

Every other day, your child will only need to bring in their lunch, a drink and their raincoat to school.

Having the children in pods means that they cannot move freely around the classroom as they would have done previously, however, there will be some flexibility in the junior classrooms. It is important that your child brings their coat to and from school daily as we plan to bring our classes outdoors as much as possible for movement breaks. Coat hooks will not be used. Coats will be hung on the backs of chairs.

Each classroom has a set of ensuite bathrooms, so only children receiving support will need to have access to the school corridor.

Water Fountain will not be operating

Due to Covid-19, the water fountain will be out of use. Please ensure that your child brings adequate fluids with them to school daily.

School packed lunch

Children must bring a healthy lunch to school – no fizzy drinks, no sweets, and no crisps please. We are a Plastic Free and Healthy Eating School so we expect re-usable lunch boxes and drink bottles. No plastic straws. Children should bring water to drink – no juice/smoothie cartons please. Milk is available to order daily through the school. All types of nuts and products containing nuts are completely banned in our school due to a nut allergy.

We would appreciate your cooperation with implementing all of the above in helping to maintain a healthy environment within the school.

School Bills

We use Aladdin office administration system for online payments of school bills. You will be sent a link to make payments for school uniform, book rental, milk, homework diaries etc.

Homework Club and After School Club

Due to Covid-19, Homework Club will not run this term. We will review this regularly.

Meetings

Of course, parents may wish to speak with their child's teacher at various times during the school year. Meetings must be carried out by phone call or video call. This can be easily arranged via email.

Unfortunately, with the Covid-19 restrictions, parents are still not allowed into the school building. Only under exceptional circumstances can a face-to-face appointment be made and only

through and with the permission of the school principal.

Formal Parent – Teacher meetings will provisionally take place during the week of the 11th of October via video call or phone call but of course, parents may wish to speak to their child/ren's teachers at other times.

Our secretary's working hours are from 9:00am – 11:30am. Unless it is an emergency, please avoid ringing the school phone from 11:30am – 2:30pm. As a teaching principal, answering the phone can take from valuable teaching and learning time. We are happy to accept phone calls from 8:30am – 11:30am and again after 2:30pm.

A final note...

The school must put in place procedures prescribed by the Department of Education to provide a safe place of learning. I know most of our pupils are already accustomed to hand-sanitising, pods, bubbles, disinfecting work spaces etc., while it may take time for others to readjust again after the summer break. We are determined to make it work for all our pupils and our staff with as much normalcy as possible.

As always, your parental support since the inception of Covid-19 has meant so much to us and I would ask that you continue to give us your support and understanding as we head into the new school term.

We want our pupils to enjoy our fabulous school and the experiences they have here! We have plenty of lovely initiatives, special events and fun activities planned for the year ahead. We can't wait!

Warmest wishes,

Jill Horan

Dates for your diary:

- Tuesday 31st August – School reopens for autumn term.