



Hansfield

**Educate Together National School
Board of Management**



11/08/20

Dear Parents / Guardians/ Staff Members,

RE: Re-opening of our School

I hope your families are happy and busy and looking forward to recommencing your learning adventure in Hansfield ETNS at the end of this month.

The re-opening of our school on **Thursday 27th August** is understandably on all our minds, due in no small part to the focus the topic is getting in the media while the Government is presently on summer recess. Whether a pupil, parent, teacher, SNA, cleaner, secretary or bus-driver, we will certainly all be affected by the manner in which the return to school will occur, but I would ask you to focus on the children and their safe and happy learning and be reassured that our BoM is attending to every minute detail to ensure the return to school for everyone, despite the restrictions.

Even though the Department of Education has published a plan for the schools' return (DES Roadmap), the Board of Management (BoM) of each school has to interpret the plan to fit their own unique situation. Our school is a large suburban primary school and the arrangements that we put in place will clearly be very different to schools of different size and location.

Re-opening our school safely will require the co-operation of **every member of our School Community** - BoM, School leaders, Staff, Parents and Pupils and visitors.

It is going to be different, guaranteed! It's not going to be what we're used to, guaranteed!

There will be some aspect of the arrangements that will seriously frustrate each of us, 100% guaranteed!

But we are being asked to consider the bigger picture and each play our part in minimising the spread of the C-19 virus in HETNS to allow the children to learn in school safely and happily with their friends once more.

Apart from the children's safe and happy learning in school, parents have to return to work also which is challenging to say the least when the children are not attending school! It is therefore of vital importance that we all make the plan work and keep it working!

Our school's C-19 Response Plan contains details of:

- **Physical** preparation: signage, classroom layout, cleaning regime, sanitising stations, floor markings etc
- **Training** for the safe return to work for staff.
- How our usual **procedures** will be altered to comply with C-19 restrictions - "drop-off" times, playground supervision, learning groups, using resources, assemblies, PE, music, homework, "pick-up" times etc.

We can outline general aspects of the plan now and as we get closer to our opening day, the BoM will keep you informed with further details about our school's plan to re-open safely and more importantly, how we intend to keep our school open. We need everyone's continued help to do this.

The BoM has made the following general decisions to date and will communicate further details as they are made.

1. We are effectively still in “**lockdown**” but restrictions have been eased to facilitate the children learning together with their friends in school, which we have seen during the past few months, is such an important aspect of their learning.
2. **Every class will attend school for a full day’s learning beginning on Thursday August 27th.**
3. We have been instructed by the DES to organise the large number of pupils in our particular school in the best way that minimises the spread of the C-19 virus. This will be achieved by dividing the children into socially distant “**PODS**” of 4 pupils in the classroom. The pods will be 1M apart. The pods together will form a “**BUBBLE**” (a class). Each Bubble will be part of a **GROUP** of 8 bubbles that will follow their own separate timetable throughout the school day.
4. There will be 3 **Groups**, each consisting of one Junior Infant class, one Senior Infant class, one 1st Class etc.
5. Each Group of 8 Bubbles will begin and end their school day 20 minutes apart so as to minimise the number of people on the move in our school at any given time.

	“DROP OFF” TIME	“PICK UP” TIME
GROUP 1 (J.Inf.1, S.Inf.1, 1.1, 2.1, 3.1,4.1,5.1, 6.1)	8:10AM	12:50PM/1:50PM
GROUP 2 (J.Inf.2, S.Inf.2, 1.2, 2.2, 3.2,4.2,5.2, 6.2, RÁ)	8:30AM	1:10PM/2:10PM
GROUP 3 (J.Inf.3, S.Inf.3, 1.3, 2.3, 3.3,4.3,5.3, 6.3)	8:50AM	1:30PM/2:30PM

7. **Siblings** (except some twins) will be in the same Group and every pupil will have a friend in their Bubble.
8. Every Bubble will be assigned a **specific door** for “Drop Off”, break times and for “Pick Up” (we will not be gathering as usual in the PE hall in the mornings). The ground has been marked to accommodate social distancing.
9. Any of our **usual school activities that include children from different classes together** will be suspended for Term 1 and the BoM will review their recommencement before Term 2 - After school clubs, choir, sport teams, after school childcare, music classes, drama classes, Karate, etc.
10. **Homework** will be suspended (or at least minimised) for Term 1 and the policy reviewed before Term 2.
11. Each child will be given their own set of crayons, pencil, rubber, sharpener in a **labelled plastic stationery pouch**.
12. **Clothes** should be changed daily, but we have been instructed that the usual school rule should continue.

13. Pupils will store their **school bag** (with snack and stationery pouch) hanging from the back of their chair.
14. Parents and teachers will communicate electronically - **Aladdin Connect**.
15. Parents will be given a **set of hygiene etiquettes** to teach their children prior to August 27th.
16. “Drop Off” has to run seamlessly within a 20 minute slot for each Group - There are 4 “Set Down” zones. Parents are asked to be considerate to others in this regard and move on to the next available “Set Down” zone if the one directly outside the front door is not available.
17. Teachers will bring the children from their **designated meeting point** to the classroom in the mornings and return with them to the same point in the afternoons.
18. **Parents/Guardians** will not be permitted inside the school building at either of these times.
19. Parents know that the staff in Hansfield ETNS look after the children in their care as their own. **With specific C-19 training**, the staff will include caring for the children in this regard also.
20. Teachers will be obliged to wear **face coverings** (mask/shield) at work but primary school children are not obliged, but permitted to do so.
21. Parents may wish to supply their child/ren with mini containers of sanitiser but should teach their child on its correct use if doing so.

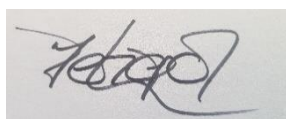
These are the **general decisions** taken by the BoM to date.

We are working on the more critical details that parents will certainly require, most notably those required to make arrangements for your workplace and After School childcare.

As soon as these details have been finalised, we will relay them to you immediately - Groups, Bubbles, teacher’s name etc.

Please bear in mind that the above arrangements are what we have in place **at the moment** - between now and the 27th August, our situation in Dublin 15 may have changed and the above plans may have to be revised.

Until the next communication,
I hope that your family keeps safe, happy and busy.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is cursive and appears to be 'Lisa Reilly'.