

Coláiste Pobail Acla

POLRANNY, ACHILL SOUND, CO. MAYO.

Telephone: (098) 45139 Email: info@cpacla.ie



Mol An Óige

August 24th 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

We are delighted to welcome our students and staff back to the school for the new academic year.

We as a team in Coláiste Pobail Acla have been busy preparing for our return to school which places student and staff safety at the centre of everything we do.

The Covid guidelines for the safe reopening of schools, as implemented in the last academic year, will continue for the current school year. We are constantly following updated government guidance and decisions being made are done so with that at the forefront of our thoughts.

Reconfiguration of the School Day

Firstly, the school day will change slightly beginning at 9:00am and finishing at 3.55pm Monday to Thursday. On Friday it will be 9:00am until 1.15pm, again a slight change. The school buses are working with the school and will be running at those times.

Secondly, there will also be a staggered lunchtime for our students to assist in monitoring social distancing. The first break has been reduced to 15 minutes.

1st, 2nd and TY Break 11:00 – 11:15 Lunch 12:35-13:15 Friday 11:00-11:15

3rd 5th and 6th Break 11:00-11:15 Lunch 13:15 – 1:55 Friday 11:00-11:15

COVID Return to School Protocols

Masks/Face-Coverings

Facemasks continue to be compulsory in post primary settings. Students will have to provide their own facemasks. We would suggest a spare face mask be kept in the students' school bag, in Ziploc bags. We ask that masks are plain in design and should not display any inappropriate images or slogans.

Masks must be worn in class, on the corridor, coming into the school building and transferring from class to class.

Arriving and Departing from School

Students will continue to have base classrooms this year. On entering the school building students must sanitise their hands. They should proceed to their locker and then go directly to their designated base classroom where they will have an assigned seat. There will be designated exit points for different year groups to maintain social distancing at the end of the school day.

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Base Classrooms

Each class group will be assigned a base class room. Upon arrival in school students should attend to their locker and proceed to their designated base classroom. All students will stay in base classes as often as possible and teachers will move to them, reducing the need for students to mingle on the corridors. They will need to move for their option subjects Woodwork, Art, Home Ec, Science etc. and some may need to move for Irish, English, Maths. The movement of students will be kept to a minimum. All of our rooms have been laid out to ensure social distancing with the installation of Perspex screens in some rooms. Students will be encouraged to clean their seat and desk regularly with antibacterial wipes. Classroom desks and chairs will be sanitised at least once a day. Classrooms will have plenty of hand sanitiser and antibacterial wipes. There will be a sanitiser in every classroom and in designated areas in the hallway.

Lockers

Lockers will be in use from the beginning of the school year. This will be monitored and may change throughout the course of the year if difficulties arise maintaining social distancing. *Students must wear a mask while using their locker and will only be permitted to use it in the morning and at break and lunch time.*

Break Times

Students are encouraged to go outside, weather permitting, at break times. Social distancing and other Covid protocols should be observed by everyone at breaktimes too, to keep us all as safe as possible. Students are asked to remember to go to their lockers in good time at break time to ensure social distancing is possible and reduce congestion in these high traffic areas of our school.

Toilet Use

Students will have access to their specific toilet as normal at break times and will only be allowed into the toilets in small groups to ensure social distancing.

Uniform

Full school uniform will be worn to school each day. Bring appropriate PE gear on the days you have PE. Changing rooms again will be limited in number to facilitate social distancing. While uniforms do not need to be washed everyday more frequent washing may be advisable. Please ensure that your child has all their uniform marked with their name.

Access to School Buildings for Parents and Visitors

Per government advice, visitors to the building must ring ahead, make an appointment, and upon arrival wait outside the door to be greeted by a member of staff.

Drop off Box

The drop off box continues to be operational outside the entrance to the secretary's office. If you need to drop off an item of clothing, lunchbox, forgotten equipment etc, please ring the office and inform them you will be leaving the item in the drop off box.

Contact Details

It is **ESSENTIAL** that we have your correct contact details. In the event of a medical concern we must be able to contact you immediately. If you have recently changed your phone number, please contact Denise in the office

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between 9am and 1pm and she will change your details on our system. If there is a suspected case in the school, it is vital that we can contact you as quickly as possible as per procedure.

It is also ESSENTIAL that you visit the school website and Facebook page for updates, as well as checking any text messages that may come through from our system. We will be able to alert you if there are any COVID-19 concerns.

Student Attendance

Students should NOT come to school if they feel unwell/display any of the COVID-19 symptoms (cough, temperature, loss of smell/taste, shortness of breath).

Isolation Room

Our COVID Isolation room continues to be operational as per the guidelines. This is in case anyone displays symptoms while in school. In such cases students will be brought to this space where they can safely isolate until they can be collected.

Code of Behaviour

Our Code of Behaviour is currently flexible enough to enable us to deal with instances of non-compliance of mask wearing, failure to follow instructions from a member of staff and unacceptable behaviour. To complement this the following regulations will also apply:

- All students must bring their own face mask/covering.
- All students must wear a facemask (plain colours, no logo or offensive slogans)
- Students must not share any items, pens, rulers, calculators etc. Subject Departments may choose to use some shared resources on the basis that they adhere to the strictest COVID-19 control measures.
- Any student caught spitting or coughing at another member of the school community will face a serious sanction in line with the schools Code of Behaviour
- Hand Sanitisers should only be used for the purpose intended. Any student caught using the hand sanitiser in an inappropriate manner will face a serious sanction.
- Social distancing, hand hygiene and good respiratory etiquette should be observed by all students.
- Where students have an elective subject they should move quickly to their new class and should be seated with members of their base class.
- Physical distancing between the teacher and the class should be observed.
- Any behaviour deemed to be inappropriate or disrespectful with regards to any member of the school community and COVID-19 guidelines may incur a serious sanction in line with the schools Code of Behaviour.

High Risk Students

If you have any concerns or worries about your child's health and their return to school please contact Ms Farrell (Deputy Principal) or email info@cpacla.ie Please advise us if your child has a medical condition or any allergies if you have not already done so.

There will be challenges as we continue to operate under Covid restrictions but we will work together through it to provide the best for our students. We will forward on all other relevant information by the DES when it is released.

We thank you for your support and co-operation,

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Le meas,

Paul Fahy

Principal

Susie Farrell

Deputy Principal