

Citywest Educate Together National School

Cooldown Commons,
Fortunestown Lane,
Saggart,
D24 CF1P

Roll no.: 204021

www.citywestetns.ie

Principal: Caitríona Hand

Deputy Principal: Anita Collings

School Secretary: Nicola McClurg

E-mail: info@citywestetns.ie

Ph.: 01 4124060



17th August 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This is the first year since the school opened back in September 2012 that there is uncertainty about the forthcoming academic year. Normally at this time of year the Board and the In-School Leadership and Management Team (ISM) would have a strong idea of the forthcoming school year and how things will progress, but this year is very different as you can imagine. The School is preparing to reopen for all students at the end of August and the Board commends all the staff of the school for their efforts in preparing for this. There has been considerable work and planning carried out by staff members to ensure that the school can reopen in as safe a manner as possible.

Our aim is to re-open the school in a safe and orderly manner, accepting that things are different from before. We hope that the children feel relaxed and welcomed within the school and that they can get back a sense of normality after 5.5 months away. We do need your help in preparing them for some differences from before, however. Please emphasise safe behaviour and proper hygiene procedures regarding hand washing and sneezing/coughing.

We have developed a lot of new policies and procedures to make sure we minimise the risk of having a school closure and to make the school building as safe as possible. Additional and more frequent cleaning of the classrooms and high touch points around the school is planned, there are procedures developed around deep cleaning and disinfecting rooms. Additional hand sanitisers and cleaning facilities have been sourced and will be readily available throughout the

school. The school COVID response plan has been developed in line with all the recommendations set out by the Department of Education and the HSE. This response plan will be updated on a continuous basis as guidelines and recommendations change and will be kept up to date on our website. Please refer to it. As updates are communicated via email, please note the updated procedures.

We look forward to welcoming all the children back into the school. However, we would like to remind parents that, where children are displaying colds, coughs or flu-like symptoms, they **should not be sent to school**. In order to protect others in the school, the children who display such symptoms will be isolated within the school and parents asked to collect them immediately. This will cause distress not only to the children isolated, but to their classmates and their teachers who will inevitably worry about being exposed to the virus. Children who have travelled from countries not on the Green List should not attend school during the 14-day self-isolation period. This is for the safety of all. Within the School community, there are a number of students, teachers and wider family members who are immune-compromised and therefore we must all play our part in keeping them safe. I am sure, with the wonderful community spirit that we have, that everyone will do their utmost to protect those who need it.

We understand that the ongoing uncertainty is stressful for all, and as a Board, we are expressing our concerns directly to the Minister of Education and the Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion via a letter requesting greater clarity for School reopening and additional resources to be provided across the Primary Education sector.

We hope that we can continue to remain open for the entire school year. However, this will not be entirely within our control. COVID-19 remains at large, and ongoing vigilance by all with respect to following the public health guidelines is necessary. Only care and attentiveness by all parties can reduce the risk of an outbreak within the School and our Community.

Kind regards,

Stephen Young, Chairperson,
On behalf of the Board of Management of Citywest ETNS.