



6th October 2020

Dear Parent/Student,

I hope this communication finds you well. Firstly, I wish to thank all parents and students for your co-operation to date with all the changes we have made in order to implement the Covid-19 Response Plan. We are doing our utmost to ensure that all students can continue to attend school safely.

We are following all the government guidelines and are doing our utmost to ensure that students will have the best possible educational experience under the circumstances.

With a month of school now behind us there are a few issues we wish to bring to your attention:

Covid-19 Symptoms

You must not send your daughter to school if she shows signs of any Covid-19 symptoms. Based on current advice the symptoms are:

- High Temperature
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- Loss of smell or distortion of taste

Your daughter should be 48hrs symptom free before returning to school after a negative test or a Covid related absence. Also, if you feel your daughter is in a Very High Risk category please contact the school directly for further information.

Email Communication

As I am sure you are aware, we are in the process of collecting an email address from all parents to generate email groups for each year group. If you have not already done so you are invited to send your email address to pa@stmarysnenagh.ie for further correspondence and updates over the coming months/years.

Student's School Email Address

It is very important that your daughter has access to her official school email address. It should end in @stmarysnenagh.ie. If your daughter has no access to her official email address please ask her to let Tracy know in our office so that we can sort out the issue promptly.

Temperature in Classrooms

As the weather continues to get colder, we will have the heating on in all rooms. However to comply with guidelines all windows will remain open. In order to deal with these conditions, we will allow students to bring a blanket with them into class. Students may wear their school jacket and if necessary, a hat and scarf in class.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

It is advised that face to face Parent/Teacher meetings should not occur for the foreseeable future. We are working on a detailed online report system for each pupil that can be accessed by parents through our VShare system. Further information will be communicated to you in due course.

Break & Lunchtime Procedures

As I am sure you are aware, we do not have a canteen this year. Students may eat their lunch in their base room or outside in the school yard and this system is working quite well. We ask all students to adhere to cleaning rotas so that all base rooms are tidy for class after break and lunch.

Movement within the school

As is recommended in the Roadmap, students remain in classrooms as much as possible and teachers move between rooms. Your daughter is assigned a base room. Before school, at break-time and at lunchtime, it is important that your daughter remain in this base room and not mix with other students from other base classes.

Lockers

Your daughter has been issued a locker. We have separated lockers as much as possible. Please encourage your daughter to be patient in the locker area and adhere to social distancing rules.

End of School Day

We ask that students leave the school premises promptly at the end of the school day. This is to facilitate a full cleaning and sanitizing of the school which will take place each day after school.

Supervised Study

The Department of Education has undertaken to prepare advice regarding the operation of Supervised Study. When the DES issue these guidelines the school will explore the possibility of the provision of Supervised Study in the context of our own school and meeting the demands of the public health guidelines. Safety of staff and students is of paramount importance when considering the feasibility of offering Supervised Study.

School Reception Contact

Our school reception is open every school day from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Payments can be facilitated by credit/debit card over the phone. Unfortunately, we cannot accept items for collection into reception as we would normally have done.

Sanitizers

Hand sanitizers will be in place throughout the school. Best advice is that students should sanitize:

- On arrival
- Before eating or drinking
- After using the toilet
- After playing outdoors
- When their hands are physically dirty
- When they cough or sneeze

Absence Notes

We can no longer collect written absence slips. When your daughter returns to school after an absence please email the relevant email address below stating your name, dates of absence, the reason for the absence and your daughter's name and class.

This email is extremely important as all this information is logged for Tusla.

year1absence@stmarysnenagh.ie
year2absence@stmarysnenagh.ie
year3absence@stmarysnenagh.ie

year4absence@stmarysnenagh.ie
year5absence@stmarysnenagh.ie
year6absence@stmarysnenagh.ie

Leaving School due to illness/appointment

If leaving school early please email admin@stmaryskenagh.ie stating your name, the reason for your daughter leaving early and your daughter's name and class. Please collect her from the Reception door and avoid entering to sign her out. Your daughter must use the book at Reception to sign out and must not leave until you are at the door to collect her.

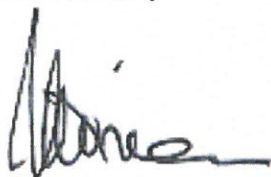
PE Uniform

To avoid using changing rooms, students may wear PE uniform into school on the day they have PE only. 1st and 2nd year students should have our official PE uniform. For non PE classes navy tracksuit bottoms need to be worn instead of school shorts. For older students or for students waiting on orders of our official PE uniform, students must wear navy tracksuit bottoms and a navy/grey top.

Our PE uniform supplier is JP O'Meara at the Logo Factory. His contact details are:

Email: thefactory@live.ie Phone: 087 2320599.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Dineen', written over a horizontal line.

Michael Dineen
Principal