

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Minister Foley recently published the Roadmap for the Full Return to School. Here in Ballyhaunis Community School we are very much looking forward to having our students back where they belong.

Returning to school in any year brings its own challenges but this year we also must contend with the threat posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The interests of students and their families, as well as the safety of the staff, are paramount as we prepare for the return of students in a short while.

Our focus is on two specific areas:

- 1: Minimising the risk of introduction of Covid-19 into the school community;
- and
- 2: Managing the risk if introduced.

For the school to achieve the above it is hugely important that the virus is controlled by:

- Regular hand hygiene;
- Maintaining physical distancing;
- Application of respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette; and
- Environmental hygiene.

We are currently involved in the huge task of reconfiguring the school to make it as safe and secure as we possibly can. We are confident that we will meet all the recommendations dictated by the Public Health Advice.

However, we have had to revise our Return to School Schedule that we published in draft form earlier this summer. We are changing this reluctantly but we are changing it to ensure the Health & Safety of the school community.

Date	Year Group
31/08/2020	1 st Years
01/09/2020	6 th Years
02/09/2020	3 rd Years
03/09/2020	LCA 2
07/09/2020	LCA 1 & 5 th Years
08/09/2020	2 nd Years
09/09/2020	TY Students

I apologise for any inconvenience this revised schedule may cause.

Parents and students can also play a role in ensuring the safe return to school. Please continue to observe all the Public Health Advice that has been issued. We would also ask that students that are returning from abroad would isolate for two weeks so as to minimise the risk of the virus arriving into our community.

I will be in touch in the coming days with further guidance as we prepare for the 2020-21 academic year. Until then keep safe and take care.

David McDonagh
Principal