Dear Parents,

We hope you all enjoyed a lovely summer and that you are looking forward to the big day on 26th August.

We would like to bring your attention to some of our Covid-19 procedures which will help us maintain the safety and wellbeing of your child and the wider school community as we return to school.

This letter also contains information for parents on starting and finishing times for Junior Infants during their settling in period.

Lunches

* Ensure your child can open and close their lunchbox with as little help as possible. This should be a wipeable box such as plastic or metal.
* Choose lunch items which allow your child to open/eat/tidy independently.
* Please supply a bottle with a mouth piece on it. Bottles that require the children to screw off the lid themselves are not suitable.
* One small treat on Fridays only thank you. This supports our Healthy Eating policy. We would appreciate your cooperation with this as it can become upsetting for children who follow the policy and see others not doing so.
* Junior Infants will have only one small break for the first seven days as they will finish at the earlier time of 12.30 during their settling in period. A small snack is required for these days.
* Please bear in mind that all lunch waste will be returned within the lunchbox.
* We are a nut free school.

Uniform

* Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays are full School Uniform days. Tuesdays and Thursdays are PE Uniform days *(with the exception of their first school day 26th August when they will wear full school uniform).* This is to allow you time to air/launder uniforms throughout the week.
* Please ensure buckles or Velcro for your child’s shoes if they are not able to tie laces. This is to reduce adult assistance which reduces contact and promotes independence.
* Practice opening/closing and putting on/taking off coats to reduce adult contact and promote independence.
* All items must be labelled.
* If your child needs spare underwear, please place this in a small, labelled plastic bag inside their school bag.
* School bags will be hung on the back of the children’s chairs. They will only require their lunchbox, a drink and spare underwear if necessary in their bag.

School Resources

* All stationery such as pencils, colours, markers etc will be supplied and stored at school. There is no need to bring in any additional stationery.
* All school books will be labelled and kept at school.
* All Homework books will be sent home and the teachers will use the Seesaw App to set and correct homework.
* Please leave all toys and unnecessary items at home.
* Friday is Library Book Day. Children will return their book on this day and choose a new one for the week. The returned book is then quarantined.

Hygiene

* Please practice with your child the 20 second hand washing routine
* Please practice coughing/sneezing into a tissue and disposing of or into your elbow.
* Children do not need tissues or sanitizer in their bags, this will be provided at school.
* Please practice using sanitizer correctly.
* Unfortunately ‘Sharing is not Caring’ this year. Please discourage your child from sharing/swapping items such as treats and personal affects.

Communication

* As we will not be using a Homework Copy this year, please email the office secretary@kilkerleyns.ie for reasons for absence and all necessary communication.
* For safety reasons, congregating at the gate must be avoided. If you need to contact your child’s teacher please make an appointment through the office.
* Seesaw will be used to communicate Homework and for Class Announcements, so it is of great importance that you familiarize yourself with it. Ms Tansey will be emailing Seesaw codes to parents. Hard copies are also available should you require them.

Collection/Drop-off

* For the first two days, Junior Infants will start at 9.30 to give them a chance to enter our school after the morning rush.
* From Monday 30th August, Junior Infants will start at 9.20 with supervision available from 9.10 onwards.
* Junior Infants will finish at 12.30 for the first seven days and will finish at the later time of 2pm from Monday 6th September onwards.
* Junior Infants are collected at the side gate. Please remain socially distant during collection/drop-off.
* Parents are asked not to congregate at the school gate after collection and drop-off.

It is important that your child's first day is as positive and calm as possible. It is not only a big milestone for the children, but also for you as parents/guardians. We hope you enjoy the excitement of the big day.  Whilst you may be going through a mixture of emotions, try not to pass on any anxieties to your child. Most children settle into school quickly but do not be concerned if it takes a little longer. We are here to help and support your child as they begin their school journey.

Keep an eye on the email you provided to the school for Seesaw codes and instructions for setting up the Seesaw app.

We will be waiting for you and your child at 9.30am at the school gate in the Church carpark on Thursday 26th August. We can't wait to see you all again!

Best wishes,

Ms Tansey