



Scoil an Linbh Íosa
Ar scáth a chéile a mhairimid

Prosperous
Co Kildare
045-868660

August 20th 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We in Scoil an Linbh Íosa appreciate that these are anxious times for families. Please be assured that we have been working tirelessly to ensure that we can open the school in a safe manner. We are making every effort to create a place of safety and security for the children when they return next week.

All our decisions are informed by Public Health Guidelines and Department of Education directives. We have engaged professional help with drafting our Risk Assessment. All decisions are subject to change as the local and/or national health situation develops.

We will be issuing further information next week. Please keep an eye on the school website for updates www.prosperousns.ie.

These are some of the main measures we are putting in place.

Return to School

Our aim is to welcome ALL children back to school on Friday August 28th and for them to attend school every day of the school week.

Department of Education guidance states that we should limit the number of children coming to school at any one time, so as to reduce the congregation at the school gates. In order to do this the school has been divided into three Super Pods, with three starting and finishing times. Each class will act as a 'Bubble'. Within each class bubble children will be working in smaller pods.

The classes will be assigned specific access/entry points to the school – entering through designated gates and doors. Please take note of these (see below) and use only the assigned entry point.

Access to the School

Unfortunately, it will no longer be possible for children to be dropped off *inside* the school gates. We will now be using all three gates to the front of the school for the children to access the building. This is being done so as to limit the interactions between children from

different Super Pods. We trust you will support us in this, by keeping your children with you, outside the school gates until their allotted entry time. Please maintain social distance where possible and do not delay outside the school. Your cooperation on this matter will ensure the safe arrival and departure of the children. It is extremely important that your child knows which **gate (lettered A, B, C)** to enter by and which **door (numbered 1-9)** to go to. Please see the charts included below.

Access to the school during the day will be limited, and by prior appointment only. There will be a designated location in the foyer to leave forgotten items. Any such items will be given to the children at an appointed time.

Super Pods

Your child will be assigned to a Super Pod - colour coded either blue, green or yellow. The children will enter the school, leave the school and mix on yard with this Super Pod only. This is in line with government advice, so as to minimise social interaction and to limit the spread of potential infection.

Start and finish times are staggered. We have tried to ensure as narrow a time frame as possible, to reduce the delays involved at drop off and pick up time. We again appeal to you to adhere to the times set out below to ensure the safe arrival and departure of the children. Please see details of your child's group here.

	Yellow	Green	Blue
Start time	9am	9:10am	9:20am
Break time	10:20-10:40	10:45-11:05	11:10-11:30
Lunch Time	12:20-12:40	12:45-1:05	1:10-1:30
Home	1:40 (Infants) 2:40 (1 st -6 th)	1:50 (Infants) 2:50 (1 st -6 th)	2:00 (Infants) 3:00 (1 st -6 th)

Super Pods, Bubbles and Pods

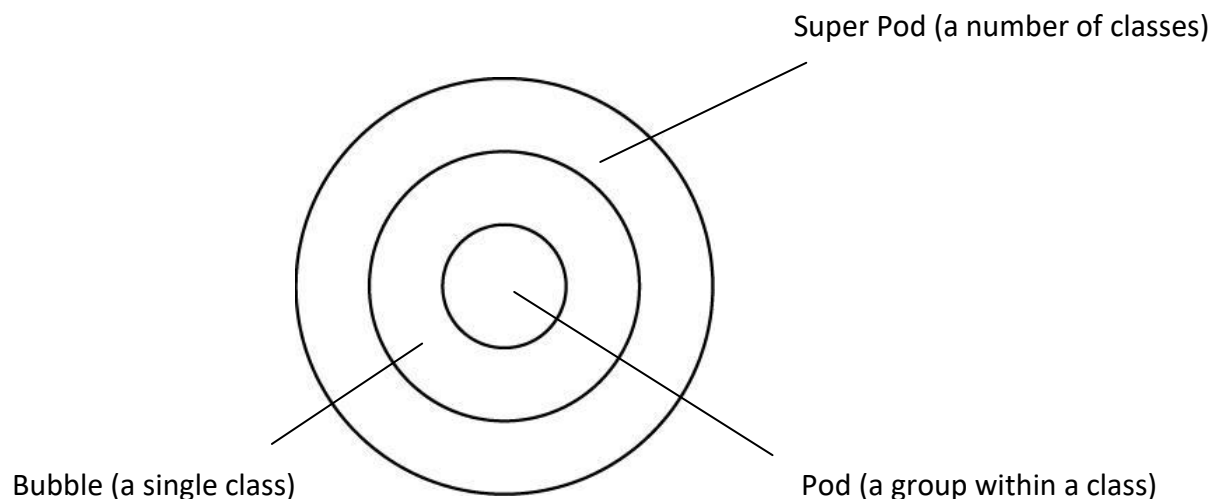
Here is the proposed organisational structure for the school:

Super Pods – The school is divided into three Super Pods, to facilitate staggered entry and exit times and to reduce socialisation. Each Super Pod is made up of six to eight classes, in a linear fashion (ie from Junior Infants to Sixth) as recommended by the DES. As already stated, these Super Pods are colour-coded – Yellow, Green and Blue.

Bubbles - Your child's whole class is considered a bubble. They will play together on yard.

Pods- The class is sub-divided into groups of between 4 to 8 children working and sitting together within the classroom. These pods will remain the same for the foreseeable future.

To explain the idea clearly, please see the diagram below:



Daily routine

- Each morning, the school gates will open at 9am and children should make their own way to their assigned door **at their allotted time**.
- They will be met in their classroom by their class teacher, where they will be asked to clean and sanitise their hands.
- If a child is late for school (ie after 9.20am) they will need to make their way to the main door of the school, where they will perform hand hygiene and be brought to the classroom. *We would urge all families to stick to the times as best as is possible – to ensure the safety of all children.*
- At home time, teacher and children will make their way back to the same gate they entered through in the morning, where they can be collected.

Infant teachers will walk the children out to an area near their assigned door and will send children out to parents, one by one.

- We appreciate that the new proposed staggered day is going to have an impact on families and for that reason we are trying to keep our times as tight as we can. Our teaching day last year went from 9:20am to 3pm so we have tried to keep as close as possible to this timing. In summary, the school day has not altered that much and

children are still getting the correct allocated teaching time as per the Department of Education guidelines.

Breaks

The DES recommends two 20 minute breaks during the school day. Children will eat in their classroom, supervised by their teacher. There will be no supervision by older children this year. Lunch boxes and contents should be easily opened and the children should be able to eat independently.

Children will go out to the yard with their Super Pod and will not mix with children from other Super Pods. Classes will have their own section on the yard. While children may have been placed in different pods within their class it is important to note that all children within the class bubble will all play together in the fresh air.

It is very important that parents prepare their children for the fact that they may not see their friends from another class during school time. We know this will be disappointing, and perhaps upsetting for some children. Your support around this matter will be essential to reducing the impact of this arrangement.

Uniform

The children are expected to wear their school uniform as usual ie Infants wear a track suit each day: children in 1st to 6th class wear a track suit on PE days and their uniform on other days. We suggest that the children take their uniform off on reaching home and change into their own clothing for the rest of the evening.

Extra curricular activities

All before and after school activities are suspended for the present. This situation will be reviewed as the situation develops.

Swimming

There will be no swimming for the present.

Insurance

We advise families to take out the personal insurance for each child. The PTA will organise receipt of payment or you can pay Edel in the Admin office.

Cleaning

We have strengthened our cleaning regime in order to manage the Covid-19 risk, with additional cleaning hours.

Yellow Super Pod

Start time: 9am

Break time: 10:20-10:40

Lunch Time: 12:20-12:40

Home: 1:40 (Infants)
2:40 (1st – 6th)

Classes:	Enter through:
Ms. Comerford (JI)	Gate A, Door 1
Ms. Keogh (SI)	Gate B, Door 2
Mr. O'Sullivan (1 st)	Gate B, Door 2
Ms. Kelly (3 rd)	Gate C, Door 3
Ms. Rogers (5 th)	Gate C, Door 3
Ms Quirke (6 th)	Gate C, Door 3

Green Super Pod

Start time: 9:10am

Break time: 10:45-11:05

Lunch Time: 12:45-1:05

Home: 1:50 (Infants)
2:50 (1st – 6th)

SEN:

Niamh Dunlea

Annalee Gilbert

SNA:

Renata Johnston

Patricia Harte

Classes:

Enter through:

Ms. Mahoney(JI)

Gate A, Door 1

Mr. Geaney (SI)

Gate B, Door 2

Ms. O'Connor (2nd)

Gate B, Door 2

Ms Barrett (3rd / 4th)

Gate C, Door 3

Ms. Dunne (4th)

Gate C, Door 3

Ms. Lowe (5th)

Gate C, Entry 4

Ms. Swords (6th)

Gate B, Door 2

Blue Super Pod

Start time: 9:20am

Break time: 11:10-11:30

Lunch Time: 1:10-1:30

Home: 2:00 (Infants)
3:00 (1st-6th)

SEN:

John Molloy

Anne Mc Intyre

SNA:

Ciara Doyle

Orla Barrett

Classes:

Enter through:

Ms. Gaire(JI/SI)

Gate B, Door 2

Ms. Shanley (1st/2nd)

Gate B, Door 2

Ms. Cox (2nd)

Gate B, Door 2

Ms. Shortt (3rd)

Gate C, Door 3

Ms. Mynes (4th)

Gate C, Door 3

Ms Whittaker (5th)

Gate C, Entry 4

Ms. Wadding (6th)

Gate C, Door 3

Blue Super Pod

Start time: 9:20am

Break time: 11:10-11:30

Lunch Time: 1:10-1:30

Home: 2:00 (Infants)
3:00 (1st – 6th)

SNA:

Mary Moore

Gemma Murphy

John Farrelly

Barbara Dowd Mahoney

Fiona Murphy

Fiona O' Rourke

Gillian Jackman

Margaret Mc Grattan

Grace Hannon

Classes:

Ms. Mc Dermott

Ms. Lavin

Ms. Byrne

Enter through:

Gate C, Entry 4, Door 6

Gate C, Entry 4, Door 6

Gate C, Entry 4, Door 5

*Children coming to school on the bus will come in through the staff car park door (Door 8) as usual.

Map of School (not to scale)

