

School re-opens on 30th August 2021 for pupils

Dear Parents/Guardians

The Board of Management and staff at Powerstown ETNS have been working very hard over the last number of weeks, to safely re-open for pupils on 30th of August 2021

As you know recently the Department of Education and Skills published a number of documents outlining required actions to facilitate the safe re-opening of PETNS, in light of the Covid-19 Pandemic. All of the provisions in these documents are being implemented in our school.



Below are the key changes, that we want to make you aware of at this time. Your support of these changes is essential to ensure we do our best, to protect the Powerstown ETNS community.

Covid-19 Response Plan & Policy Statement

The Board of Management of Powerstown ETNS have ratified a Covid-19 Policy Statement. This was published on our school website ([click here](#))



Personal Hygiene Bag

All children must have a personal hygiene bag that contains hand sanitizer, tissues and small hand-towel / facecloth, Please make sure this hand-towel is changed daily.

Wear weather appropriate clothes for well vented rooms and the outdoors

All classrooms will have windows open regularly to ensure rooms are well ventilated.

We will be maximising the use of our outdoor facilities. Please ensure your child wears weather appropriate clothes.



Morning Assembly 8.20 – 8.30am for children only. Please avoid large crowds

Morning assembly is from 8.20am – 8.30am. Children should not arrive to school before 8.20am to avoid congestion at gates. We have 3 gates to access assembly areas: staff car park gate, SNU gate and main yard gate.

[Please see visual of assembly areas and class allocated areas here.](#)

On a wet day, children will be directed towards their allocated entrance door and be brought straight to class.

The school grounds must be used for **drop off only**. There will be sufficient staff on the ground to escort your child to their assembly point and to supervise them safely. Parents are not permitted to access assembly areas and are asked not to gather at assembly gates. (Junior Infant Parents, please refer to Induction letter).

All children will be asked to hand sanitise at the entrance gate before going to the yard. (If your child has allergies / must use their own please email covid19@powerstownet.com so relevant staff can be informed).

Teaching commences at normal time of 8.30am.

All children, especially 3rd – 6th class pupils are **strongly encouraged** to walk, cycle or scoot to school.

Collection:

Junior & Senior Infants @1.10pm.

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, Birch, Holly, Hawthorn @2.10pm

Children from 3rd to 6th class will be released by their class teacher at their allocated door and encouraged to walk/cycle/scoot home or meet a parent at an agreed collection point. ***This agreed collection point is agreed between you and your child.*** Parents/guardians are not permitted to gather at entrance/exit doors. *(If special arrangements need to be made for your child, please inform class teacher via email)*

Children from Junior Infant – 2nd class must be released to a known adult. Please see diagram [here](#) of collection point.



Meeting with your child's teacher

Parents/Guardians must make an appointment to meet with a staff member. Meetings will happen via phone call or

zoom. Face to face meetings will only occur in exceptional circumstances.

All parents/guardians must make an appointment via the office (email info@powerstownt.net, phone 018272018).

Please note that your child's teacher is working from 8.20am – 2.10pm and does not have access to their emails during contact/teaching time.

If a face to face meeting is arranged:

1. A covid questionnaire must be completed the day before meeting.
2. Please phone 01 8272018 on arrival to the school grounds. Please wait in your car / at a safe distance away from the entrance.
3. Staff member will phone when ready for your appointment & meet you in lobby
4. When entering the building by appointment all visitors must wear a face covering, and sanitise hands on entrance to reception.
5. Visitors will be asked to complete a visitor register that complies with DES contact tracing form via their phone by using a QR code. *(Alternative arrangements can be made for visitors without a phone)*



Bubbles & Pods

Bubbles are classes and Pods refer to groups in classes.

Class & class groups will operate the same as 2020/21 school year

All children will be allocated to a pod of no more than 6 children.

The pods, as arranged by the teacher, will remain in place until a review takes place in line with DES guidelines. Only in very exceptional circumstances will a pod be changed.

(Due to the large number of pupils we have in the school and the needs of each individual class it is impossible to arrange pods by friends, neighbours, crèche users, childminders etc)

Pupils Break times - staggered

We will be introducing staggered breaks, whereby each class ("Bubble") will play independently. [Please see document visualising staggered yard breaks here.](#)





Hand sanitizing & hand washing in school.

We have hand sanitizing stations at every entrance door to the school. There is a hand sanitizing station in every classroom. Hand sanitizer is also accessible to each individual pod.

All toilets (2 per classroom) have hand wash facilities with hot water and soap. All classrooms have hand wash facilities with hot water and soap. Regular handwashing will be timetabled into the school day for pupils.

All adults on school grounds asked to wear a mask; including adults dropping and collecting children

Staff will be wearing face coverings

The government advise against children under 13 wearing a face covering. Pupils may wear a visor / face covering in school if parent or the child wishes. It is not however the responsibility of school staff to enforce pupil wearing of face covering.



Please do not enter the school grounds if:

- **You are feeling unwell:** For the safety of the entire school community, if your child is feeling ill, in any way **they may not come into school.**
- Any child, who staff feel may be ill, will be promptly brought to the isolation room and parents/guardians will be asked to collect their child immediately. If necessary, the HSE may provide further guidance to the school. The school's decision in any such cases is final.
- You have been diagnosed with Covid 19.
- You are a close contact of someone diagnosed with Covid 19, or suspected Covid 19 or waiting results of Covid 19 test
- You have been referred for a Covid 19 test, or are awaiting results of a Covid 19 test.

Travel Guidance: As we continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, we can plan for new advice and rules for international travel, which came into effect in Ireland on 19 July. School will follow rules



and guidance set out by the Department of Foreign Affairs. [Click here for more information](#)



Please make sure we have your up to date contact details – phone number, emails and emergency contact details. These can be updated by you on Aladdin, or by emailing the office at info@powerstownet.com

Covid 19 Concerns- covid19@powerstownet.com

A new email address has been set up by the school strictly for use in relation to serious Covid 19 concerns



School Calendar for 2021/2022 is [accessible here](#)

[Junior Infant Induction timetable](#) and details [accessible here](#)