

**Pobalscoil Náisiúnta  
Iarthar na Cathrach & Theach Sagard**

Lána Bhaile Uí Fhoirtcheirn,  
Iarthar Na Cathrach,  
Baile Átha Cliath 24



**Citywest & Saggart  
Community National School**

Fortunestown Lane,  
Citywest  
Dublin 24

Príomhoide: Maidhc O' Broin  
Leas-Phríomhoide: Orla Uí Dhochartaigh

Principal: Mike Byrne  
Deputy Principal: Orla Doherty

Dear parents,

With the latest advice from the Department of Education, we can start moving back to school life as we knew it pre-pandemic. However, following discussions with students and staff, there have been some measure introduced which have has a positive impact on school life and others which have not. We have created this document to explain what school life will be like over the next few weeks. The guidance in full is available from

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/e1754-information-note-sd-00032022-updated-covid-19-guidance-to-schools-following-the-mid-term-break-2022/>

*Will there be a change to the start times of school?*

Yes. Although the staggered times worked for some families, they did have implications for staffing and other aspects of school organisation. All children will now begin school at 8.55. The children can start coming into the building at 8.45. They will come through the same doors and will sanitise their hands on the way in. This will begin from **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March**. Please inform any child care providers/childminders of this change. As traffic will probably be a bit heavier, we encourage as many children to walk and cycle to school as possible.

*Will there be a change to the finish times of school?*

Yes. Classes will have the same finish time.

Our Junior and Senior Infants will finish at 1.35pm each day.

1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class will finish at 2.35 each day. This will begin on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March**. Please inform any child care providers/childminders of this change.

*Where will I be collecting my child from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March?*

3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class will leave the building through the same doors as they currently do.

Junior and senior infants will be collected from the yard each day. We will guide you on the first few days. On wet days, they will be collected from the doors through which they enter in the morning.

1<sup>st</sup> class will be collected from the doors through which they enter in the mornings (or a nearby door). 2<sup>nd</sup> class will be collected from the PE hall doors.

These arrangements will be subject to change as we see how it goes.

*What is happening with break times?*

We have seen huge benefits from having different break times for different classes. However, we have also heard calls from the children who wish to play with children from the class next door. As such, there will be a continuation

to the split breaks but all junior classes will have yard time together and senior classes will have yard time together. Children will be able to mix with other class groups over the next few weeks.

### *Will children still be sitting in pods?*

Children in our school sit in groups regardless. However, there will be more freedom for teachers to move children around the classroom to work in different groups. Children may now be sitting in bigger groups in the classrooms. This will be at the discretion of the class teacher and their class.

### *Will visitors be allowed into school?*

We hope so. We are looking forward to welcoming parents and community figures into our school to work on projects with the children. We also hope to get children moving out into the community on trips also.

### *Will after-school activities be starting?*

Yes. We are currently arranging for external afterschool providers to be set up to deliver classes. We hope there will be more over the coming weeks and months.

### *Will anything be staying the same?*

There are some things which will remain in place.

1. The same levels of cleaning will continue each day in our school
2. Hand washing and sanitising hands will remain in place and has been embedded into school life already.
3. The same levels of ventilation in classrooms will continue as per the latest guidelines.
4. Masks will be optional for staff and pupils.

### *What if my child has symptoms of Covid 19?*

Please stay up to date with the latest HSE guidelines. Presently, children with symptoms should isolate and engage in antigen testing. **“If you have any symptoms of COVID-19, even mild ones, you should self-isolate (stay in your room) until 48 hours after your symptoms are mostly or fully gone. Wear a face mask if you have to be around other people. Do these even if you completed your first round of COVID-19 vaccination, had a booster, or had COVID-19 in the past.”** All the information you need to know can be found on:

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/overview/>

*We will continue to be guided by the Department of Education and HSE on these matters.*