Dear Parents/Guardians,

 As we finish our third full week here at school I want to thank each of you for your continued co-operation and support.

While it might not be possible for us to eliminate the risk of infection here in Westport, it will be possible to minimise the risk of the virus being introduced to our school and the risk of its spread. We must **continue** to strictly follow our Return to School Plan and take personal responsibility in ensuring the health and safety of young and old.

Alongside our previous recommendations, we would really appreciate it if:

* all families continue to arrive promptly as per our school plan and not arrive outside the school grounds in advance of these times.
* you exercise **extreme caution** on your approach, outside of the school, and as the children are dismissed.

**Please also continue to reinforce the importance of**

**Respiratory hygiene**: By following good respiratory hygiene, you protect the people around you from viruses. This means covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or bent elbow when coughing or sneezing and disposing of tissue immediately into a nearby bin.

* **Hand hygiene**: Thorough hand washing or using hand sanitiser (when hands look clean).
* **Physical distancing**: increasing separation/ decreasing interactions.
* **Face Masks**: wearing of face masks when on school grounds.

Please ensure that we can make contact with you in case of an emergency

**Junior Infants**

We are delighted with how well our junior infants have settled into our school.

They will now revert to a normal school day, beginning at 8.40 am and finishing their day at 1.20pm with the existing arrival and dismissal arrangements remaining in place.

**Healthy Lunch Policy**

A**healthy lunch policy** operates in the school. No fizzy drinks, crisps, sweets, chocolate or popcorn please. Treats on special occasions will be allowed at the discretion of the teachers.

**School Website**

Please visit our school website regularly to find out about school activities. The website address is [www.quayschool.ie](http://www.quayschool.ie) .We often have photographs of pupils on the school website. If you do not wish to have your child’s photograph published on the website, please send a note to the school office.

**Confidential Information**

Please inform the school if your contact details have changed since last year.

**Aladdin**

We ask that all parents access the Aladdin App to report any absences directly to your child's teacher. Please note that you can only do this after your child's class teacher has called their class roll.

**Homework**

We will begin to assign homework on a phased basis in October. Your child's class teacher will be in contact with you regarding this. Aladdin Connect will also be used throughout the school as a noticeboard.

**Parents Association**

We would like to sincerely thank our outgoing PA for all their time, commitment and support to the school, staff and pupils over the last two years. They have contributed so much to the running of the school and introduction of new initiatives from the new AstroTurf to Literacy Lift Off. We would especially like to thank them for their kind gift of a buddy bench for all pupils in our school.

We are hoping to have our new parents association in place in the next few weeks.

Finally, we hope you all have a lovely weekend, a sincere thank you again for your continued support.

 Le gach dea ghuí

Kevin

**SCHOOL CALENDAR 2020/21**

|  |
| --- |
| **2020 Term 1**  **August:** Thursday 27th August (School re-opens @ 9.00 a.m.)  **October:** Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October (School Closes for Mid-Term Break)  **November:** Monday 2nd November (School re-opens @ 9.00 a.m.)  **December:** Tuesday 22nd December (School Closes @ 12 noon for Christmas Holiday) |
| **2021 Term 2**  **January:** Wednesday 6th January (School re-opens @ 9.00 a.m.)  **February:** Thursday 18th February - Friday 19th February (School Closes for Mid-Term Break)  **March:** Wednesday 17th March (St. Patrick’s Day) and Thursday 18th March (School Holiday)  **March:** Friday 26th March (School Closes @ 12 noon for Easter Holiday) |
| **2021 Term 3**  **April:** Monday 12th April (School re-opens @ 9.00 a.m.)  **May:** Monday 3rd May (Public Holiday)  **June:** Friday 4th June (School Holiday)  **June:** Monday 7th June (Public Holiday)  **June:** Wednesday 23rd June (School closes @ 12 noon for Summer Holiday) |

**Please note:** In light of the COVID 19 Pandemic and as we move through the phased reopening of our country, the School Calendar dates above are provisional and may be subject to review/change by the Department of Education/NPHET. There are 183 days in a primary school year. Please supply a note following your child’s absence from school.

**Reminder:** Under the Educational Welfare Act we must report absences in excess of 20 days to Tusla.