

16th August 2021.

Dear parents, guardians and carers,

I hope that this communication finds you well. As the start of the school year approaches, I am contacting you regarding arrangements for First Year 2021 and with staff updates and other news.

Enrolment:

There are 48 students in First Year. This means that we are full for 2021–2022. Enrolment for First Year 2022 will open in October. If you know of families interested in their child/ren enrolling in First Year 2022 then please advise them to follow us on Facebook or Twitter or to keep an eye out on the website during October.

Staff:

A very warm welcome to Clodagh Keher, who is our new school administrator and to Suzin Staunton who is our special class teacher. Welcome also to ASN assistants Jane Eccles and Laura Reid. Thank you to Róisín for her support in the office during the first year of the school. We are delighted also to be playing our part in supporting teachers at the start of their careers and welcome four Professional Master's in Education (PME) teachers who will work alongside our experienced staff. The PMEs are: Patrick King: *Science*, Eddie McGinn: *Spanish and CSPE*, Ronan Reddy: *English and Geography*, Deirdre Griffin: *Business and CSPE*.

Accommodation:

The prefab buildings won't be ready until September 24th. This is very frustrating for everyone in the school community. However, please be assured that there will not be any interruption to your child's education in the interim period.

Covid-19:

All health advice regarding Covid-19 comes from the DE and HSE. The Board of Management does not have autonomy to make decisions about any aspect of the Covid-19 and its effect on school life. We expect all staff and student to wear an appropriate face mask. We will also continue with our sanitising protocols. We hope that the vaccination programme improves matters for everyone. However, we must remain vigilant and careful in equal measure. Thank you, in advance, for your support.

It was confirmed to us on August 11th that there will be no separate mandate from the DES regarding travel for students in secondary school. Please follow the links below to find the most pertinent information from the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Government of Ireland.

[General COVID-19 Travel Advisory - Department of Foreign Affairs \(dfa.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/77952-government-advice-on-international-travel/)
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/77952-government-advice-on-international-travel/>

As further communications are received from the DE and the HSE we will update our Covid-19 Response Plan.

Starting secondary school:

The transition to secondary school is an exciting time. We also understand that starting secondary school can make some students anxious. Our experience is that most children settle very quickly. However, please do stay in touch with the school and let us know if you notice anything in the first few days.

Who to contact if you have a question or a concern:

The two Clan Tutors are Trevor McAleenan tmcaleenan@goatstownetss.ie and Niamh Hyland nhyland@goatstownetss.ie, the Year Coordinator is Clodagh Keane, ckeane@goatstownetss.ie. Our ASN Coordinator is Maireád Kennedy mkenney@goatstownetss.ie and the special class teacher is Suzin Staunton sstaunton@goatstownetss.ie

If you have a concern relating to a particular school subject, then please contact the subject teacher in the first instance. Day-to-day information about the school will be posted on the school website www.goatstownetss.ie and especially, on the school app.

Important dates and times:

Thursday 26 th August, 9am-10.30am	First Year induction part 1. Bring your iPad and a pen to write with. On the first day, parents may bring their child/ren into the yard. Please wear a mask. After the first day we respectfully ask that you leave your child at the front gate.
Friday 27 th August, 8.40am-10.40am	First Year induction part 2. You will be told on Thursday what to bring to school.
Monday 30 th August	There is NO SCHOOL for First Years.
Tuesday 31 st August, 8.40am-10.40am	Activities for First and Second Years.
Wednesday 1 st September, 8.40am-1.44pm	Full day as per timetable

Please keep an eye on the school website and school app for the most up to date school calendar.

I would like to draw your attention, in particular, to:

- First Year Information Evening: **Tuesday, 7th September at 7pm**. This is an important meeting for all parents and guardians, but not students, to attend.
- Parent/ Staff Association meeting for all parents and guardians. Guest Speaker Jacinta Kitt. **Wednesday, September 29th at 7pm**. This meeting will also aim to develop the Parent/ Staff Association and will look at developing parent voice in a way that supports the work of the school.

We will advise whether the meetings on September 7th and September 29th can take place in school closer to the time.

Extra-curricular activities:

We will contact you with a list of clubs and activities in mid-September.

School Administration Charge:

Thank you for your payment of this annual charge for specific items.

School App:

A reminder that all general communications from the school will come via the school app. Please make sure that you have downloaded the app so that you receive relevant notifications from the school relevant to your child.

Other Information:

If you have a concern relating to a particular school subject, then please contact the subject teacher in the first instance. Day-to-day information about the school will be posted on the school website www.goatstownetss.ie and especially, on the school app.

Office hours are 8.30am–4.30pm Monday to Friday. There will be times when the office phone is unattended. Please leave a message and we will get back to you.

Please notify all absences, lates, permissions and requests to collect your child during the school day through the school app.

We are all looking forward to welcoming our First Years on August 26th.

Best wishes,



Jonathan Browner (principal)