

August 18th, 2022

Dear First Year parents, guardians and carers,

Preparations for the return to school are almost complete and we look forward to welcoming First Years as follows to our school:

Induction dates and times:

Friday August 26 th , 9:00–11:00	First Year induction part 1: Students should bring their laptop, their password to sign in (received with Wriggle pack) and a pen to write with.
Monday August 29 th , 8:40 –10:40	First Year induction part 2: Students will be advised on Friday what to bring to school.
Tuesday August 30 th , 8:40 – 10:40	First Year Induction part 3.
Wednesday August 31 st , 8:40 – 12:03	Food Village onboarding and Period 1-3 timetabled classes
Thursday September 1 st , 8:40 – 15:32	Full day as per timetable

A range of information is included below for your attention:

Facilities:

The Department of Education has fitted our modular buildings out with a full-sized Technology room and a new Science Lab. Redecoration of classrooms in the old school building has been completed. Meanwhile, the Department has also applied for planning permission for significant modular building provision on the permanent site. You can find out more by clicking on [this link](#).

The *Food Village* service will provide hot and cold food on site from the second week of September. Details of onboarding as well as a menu will be notified in a separate communication.

Planning for the Future:

A key priority for the school this year is the completion of our first State Examinations in June 2023. In addition, we will begin the process of planning for senior cycle. Part of this process will include a panel discussion on Tuesday, October 25th at 7pm in the school. Dr Jerry Jeffers, from Maynooth University, who will work with the school on developing its Transition Year programme will join Chairperson of our Board of Management, Ben Murray (Director, National Council for Curriculum and Assessment) and others to discuss the shape of senior cycle in an Educate Together secondary school.

Enrolment:

All year groups are currently oversubscribed. The Department of Education is limiting our enrolment to 72 students per year for the time being. Enrolment for First Year 2023-2024 opens on Saturday, October 1st at 9am and finishes on Saturday, October 22nd. As the number of applications for places will hugely exceed the number of places available, the Board of Management has identified the following priorities for enrolment:

1. Siblings of students already enrolled in the school
2. Students who attended Goatstown/ Stillorgan ETNS (from September 2026)
3. Students residing inside the school planning area as determined by the DE
4. Students who attended an ETNS outside the school planning area.
5. All other students.

Communications:

The school app is the only way that the school uses to communicate with its families. You are asked to use the app for all standard notifications to the school about lateness, absence, and attendance. Permissions, payments, and surveys will also appear on the school app. The school website is the most up to date source of information about programmes and people at the school. The most up-to-date version of the school calendar is also on the website.

Please note the following key dates for your diary:

Date	Event
Tuesday September 6th	Food Service commences
Wednesday September 7 th , 19:00	First Year Information Evening
Thursday September 22 nd , 19:00	PSA AGM with Guest Speaker – Shane Martin
Tuesday, March 14 th , 16:15–18:45	Parent/ Teacher Meeting
Monday September 19th	Trip to Causey Farm
Tuesday, October 25 th , 19:00	Panel Discussion ‘Towards Senior Cycle’

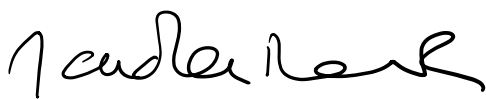
When communicating with/ finding information out about the school, we ask you to do the following:

Trigger	Action
General Information	Website/ school app or call office at (01) 2964449
Absence, child late etc.	Use the school app to communicate this information to the school
Concern about a specific subject	Email the class teacher (you can see their name on your child's timetable). Email addresses for staff are on the school website .
General concern about your child	Clan Tutor (Caitlin, Eddie or Donna, depending on which Clan your child is in) or Year Coordinator, Niamh Hyland
School App/ Payments function/ VSware technical issue	Clodagh in the office (01) 2964449 or email office@goatstownetss.ie
Technical issue with device	Contact Wriggle Email: info@wrigglelearning.ie Phone: 01 500 9060

Copies of the 'Welcome to Goatstown ETSS' publication and the Digital Guide' for our school can be downloaded from [here](#).

We all look forward to welcoming your child to the school.

Best wishes,



Jonathan Browner (principal)