



Letterfrack National School
Connemara, Co. Galway.

Tel: 095 41034 Email: letterfrackns@yahoo.ie
PRINCIPAL: [Olivia Kerrigan](#) CHAIRPERSON: [Brian McDermott](#)

RE: Reopening date, Government optimum model for reopening schools, School fees for school year 2020-21

As we near the end of a very unique school year I want to thank you for all your hard work and dedication to your children's learning over the past few months. I also want to prepare you as best I can for the new academic year. We plan to open on **Monday the 31st of August**. A breakdown of the school calendar will follow at a later date.

On Friday the Government released a very general report on the planning for reopening schools. The Government's overall objective is to open schools in accordance with the normal start of the new school year to the **fullest extent** while minimising the risks from a public health perspective. Physical distancing imposes a direct constraint on plans to reopen schools due to the physical size of our schools and the number of individual classrooms within them. Teacher supply will also be a significant consideration. Ireland is unique in terms of most other EU countries given its peak enrollment numbers in primary school and also its high pupil teacher ratio. The Government have stated it is not feasible to implement additional classroom capacity such as prefabs and it's also not feasible to reduce class size and recruit extra teachers. The optimum model for reopening schools would be that all children will return to school in September and subject to health advice, school settings would operate to maximise physical distancing outside of the classroom but there would not be a requirement to maintain a specific distance within a classroom group. This would result in schools reopening for all students with every effort to be made to restrict movements within the school, confine students to class groupings/bubbles, arrange staggered drop off/pickups, increase hand washing/sanitising, enhanced cleaning regimes and if unwell stay at home regimes. More guidelines will be released over the summer months and I will update you again closer to reopening on how this will work for us.

In order to reduce risks there will be no booklist sent out with the report cards this year. Instead the school will purchase all the books required for each student and the PA have kindly agreed to buy the stationary and copies. It will mean that the school fees paid annually will increase but the overall cost for each pupil will be much lower. The breakdown of our usual school fees is €23 art & craft supplies, €7 pupil's insurance, €20 book rental. This year there will be an additional €30 for the books usually purchased by the parent on the booklist.

CHILDHOOD SHOULD BE A JOURNEY NOT A RACE

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It is unlikely that swimming will take place next year (for term 1 at least) which means our 3rd class to 6th class will miss out. Some of our infant parents paid for swimming this year and it didn't go ahead so this will carry forward to next year if swimming can start again.

The academic year of 2020/21 will bring many challenges especially financially as we were unable to have our usual Race Night fundraiser which is the biggest and most important fundraiser for our school. We also realise that many families will also have financial worries in the coming months and have considered this when deciding on our school fees for next year. It is imperative that everyone makes an effort to pay in order for everyone to benefit especially our children. As always every consideration will be given to allow you to pay in instalments.

School fees for 2020/2021 school year

1 child = €80

Family with 2 children = €150

Family with 3 children = €220

Bank details below for those who would like to pay by bank transfer, please give your **child/children's name as reference for the transaction.**

Account Name: Board of Management, Letterfrack National School, Current Account

Account number: 29503453

IBAN: IE66 BOFI 9037 7929 5034 53

BIC: BOFIE2D

Branch code: 90-37-79

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