



# Ecole Beechville-Lakeside-Timberlea Junior School

22 James Street  
Timberlea, Nova Scotia  
B3T 4G9  
02 876-3236

Patricia Leger, Principal  
Cheyanne Gorman-Tolliver, Acting Vice Principal

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Monday, Aug. 24

Dear Families,

We are so very excited to see our students and families once again! This is understandably an exciting but worrisome time for all of us. Rest assured that our staff has been working together to create and implement protocols that support a learning environment that is healthy, safe and happy for our students and staff. Our shared health depends on our shared actions.

Although things are ever changing, I can share with you what the first few days of school will look like and how you can help make them a success.

Social distancing, hand washing and cleaning/sanitizing are key to keeping our students and staff safe while at school. All protocols and routines that I am sharing with you and that will be included in our final plan support our efforts at school and are necessary. I am asking for your support as we head into a new school year.

Our Primary teachers will be calling families to introduce themselves prior to school starting. All class lists will be posted on Friday, Sept. 4 at 3:00pm on our school's website and on the cafeteria windows. You will need your child's Student ID (on report card) to do this as we cannot post student names.

## **How will the first few days of school work? (Sept. 8...)**

As you can imagine, my staff and I are well versed in the routines of the first days of school. However, we need your help in maintaining the expected 6 ft. distancing as we gather and organize our students. I know this will be a challenge but if we all do our part, we can do it!

Busses will arrive at staggered times from 8:05 to 8:30. All staff will be outside at 8:05 until entry to the building at 8:25. Additional staff will supervise until all buses have arrived and students have disembarked.



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Classroom teachers (Gr.1 and Gr.2) will have placards to identify themselves and they will be at their lineup area. Once your child is in the lineup, please watch from the sidelines 😊

Students riding the bus are required to wear a mask. They'll keep their mask on until they get to their classrooms. Masks are not mandatory in classrooms, at this point, for students in Pre-Primary to Gr.3. However, they are when navigating the hallways and common areas.

All other staff will be wearing safety vests and will have all class lists so they can direct you to the proper lineups.

ECEs (teachers) will meet Pre-Primary students when they arrive on the bus and take them directly to the Pre-Primary Village, on the Sr. building side. If you are walking your pre-primary child to school, you can go directly to the village, where one of the ECEs outside the building will meet you. Again, we cannot invite parents and non-essential visitors into school buildings. To avoid crowds, please use the entrance to the Sr. building parking lot.

We will gather new primary students (bussed) at the front of the school and walk them to the Jr. Field. As we gather your children and line them up, we will aim to do so in keeping with social distancing protocols. We got this! Primary teachers will accept any paperwork you have for them at that time. You can place the items in a designated basket on the pavement. Please ensure your child's name and teacher is on all the paperwork. If you are walking your primary to school, join us on the field but please practice social distancing.

To maintain social distancing, as required, we will unload one or two busses at a time. Staff will walk students to their lineups where they will see their teachers. It may look chaotic but not nearly as it would be if the children got off all the busses at once. We will get faster and better at it as time goes on! It takes time to learn new routines and we are patient!

## **Other ways we are supporting our students and each other at BLT Jr:**

Line-ups will be marked with a colored dot on the building and on the ground, there will be distancing markers for our students while in the lineup. There will also be directional and



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distancing signs throughout the school. We are putting a video together showing the routines when entering, leaving and navigating the building. We will post the video later next week.

There will also be a yellow line around the perimeter of the playground. We are asking parents to wait for their children behind the yellow line. I know this is a work in progress as we learn new routines but it needs to be as we adhere to social distancing guidelines to keep all of us as safe as possible.

As directed by our Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Strang, non-essential visitors cannot enter the school. If you are picking up your child, please ring the buzzer and we will come to you. At dismissal times, please wait behind the yellow line if you are on the playground. Please do not gather at the front of the building, as classes will be making their way to the busses.

We are sharing parking with the senior building so there will be little to no parking available on our school grounds. Please park away from the schools and be mindful of not parking in 'no parking zones' which creates other safety challenges for our children. Also, please be aware that you cannot park in spaces marked 'Accessible Parking' unless you have a visible permit.

It seems like a lot to process but these are small and necessary steps to keep us safe, healthy and learning in our school. Together, we've got this! Count on us. We're counting on you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at [pleger@hrce.ca](mailto:pleger@hrce.ca)

Sincerely,

Patricia Leger Principal  
Cheyanne Gorman-Tolliver Vice-Principal



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