



# Nuachtlitir Scoil Bhríde

**Uimhir 11 Bealtaine 2020/May 2020**

www.scoilbhríde1862.ie FB: Scoil Bhríde Mionloch/Menlo  
Twitter: @ScoilbhrídeMen1

## Notaí Pobail Scoile/School Community Notes

**'School work is important but it is life that matters',**  
*Minister of Education Joe Mc Hugh (May 2020)*

### **An chéad céim eile / Our next step**

Mar atá sibh san eolas faoi, táimid ag obair le nár google classroom gach lá agus táimid fíor sásta leis an obair ar fad atá á dhéanamh agaibh ar fad sa bhaile.

As per our last newsletter we are working via google classrooms and we are delighted with the continued work being submitted by yourselves on behalf of your children. Since we received the announcement that schools nationwide would remain closed, we as staff would like to tap into the social well being of our children and help where we can.

Our weekly staff meetings are proving beneficial to our own well being and we feel a social meet up (via google) with each of our classes may benefit our children also.

We are currently working on it. We are planning and hope each class could meet up once a week at a planned time with their teacher and myself/another member of management online. We would like this space to become a safe space for the class to share thoughts, class-work or just to chat to and see one another.

During the meet up the parent would have full responsibility for their child's health and safety as well as their conduct during the session and we would expect you, or another responsible adult, to be in the background ensuring the code of conduct is being adhered to at all times.

We are currently drawing up an updated consent form with regard to our use of GSuite Services and a code of conduct which parents will be asked to agree to and submit in order for their child to attend the online meet up. It is possible that you may prefer not to take part and that we understand also.

It is currently a work in process and we ask you to think about it and we will keep you updated.

In the meantime fán sa bhaile /stay at home  
Tabhar aire,  
Le meas  
Máire



### **Dataí le Teach / Upcoming Dates**

**Lá Domhanda na nAigéan/World Oceans Day**  
8/6/2020

**Grianstad an tsamhraidh / Summer Solstice**  
20/6/2020

**Lá na nAithreacha / Fathers' Day**  
21/6/2020

**Sábháilteacht Uisce/Water Safety**  
<http://www.watersafety.ie/>

**Sábháilteacht ar an bhFeirm / Farm Safety**  
<http://www.agrikids.ie/learn-more.php>

# Slán le Rang a Sé /Farewell to Rang a Sé

*Tá sé tabhacht do tuistí gan a bheith buartha faoi Méan Fómhair 2020.* It is important for Rang Sé parents not to feel anxious about September 2020. Our 15 children are amongst thousands of sixth class children nationwide who are all playing out this chapter in their young lives. The second level schools are organising the most supported transitions they possibly can for all the sixth class children who will walk in their schools door in September. It is important that you appear hopeful and excited about your child's new school and this way your child the same emotions. Let them know that they will have many trips, assemblies, sport outings and new activities come the new academic year.

They will have many great times ahead and right now is for staying safe and sound. As our schools remain closed, your chosen second level school may contact you if they need any particular information in regard to your child. If they require any further information Scoil Bhríde in conjunction with yourself can supply them with the same on our return. Either way all will be in order and a smooth transition of paperwork will be provided as per previous years.

We would also ask Rang 6 parents to avail of the survey our Education Centre has provided for you. It will help pinpoint areas your child may need support. The information will be forwarded to the second level schools to help them with their preparations and how best to support your child on their return to school life.

IRISH: <https://forms.gle/iwXxtzQAg2Jf8cPd9>  
ENG: <https://forms.gle/KkxXCLH4KpgaoojH6>

We are very excited with our plans as we go about organising a graduation for our Rang 6 children. We have ordered the graduation medals and as they are the first order made nationwide, we hope to see them arrive to us within the next few weeks. We will need your assistance when it comes to arranging a photo with your child along with their cert and the graduation medal. The children will also be asked to submit their thoughts/memories of their time in primary school (via google classroom) once all is in order we will surprise everyone with a very cool Slán le Rang Sé

## **Transition to Post Primary Resources**

These are some resources which you or another parent of a child who is moving to Post Primary may find useful.

[National Parents Council Information](#)

[The Transition to Post Primary for parents of Children with Special Needs](#)

## **Smaoineamh Beag/A Thought for Children**

*Is rud deas é dialann a choiméad don t-am seo agus sin sa bhaile.*

It might be an idea for all children to keep a journal of their thoughts during this time. There is no doubt they will be asked to write about it in the future, be it in general or for an exam! First hand thoughts from a journal will bring with it a true insight into this extraordinary time as it unfold daily in their young lives.

# Múinteoirí Scoil Bhríde Go raibh maith agaibh

*Ar mbuíochas le múinteoirí Scoil Bhríde as ucht an obair atá á dheanamh acu i dtaobh an spás nua seo, nach raibh aon cur amach againn ar dhá mhí ó shin.*

The Board of Management would like to express its appreciation to our dedicated staff who have not hesitated to leap forward into new technologies and ways of working without training or notice. As is the case for our school families, our teachers are doing their very best to support their school children while managing home situations and stressful challenges arising out of the current pandemic.

*Maith sibh a mhúinteoirí, agus go raibh míle maith agaibh.*

We would also like to thank parents for the kind and encouraging emails and messages the school has received over the last number of weeks. Both management and staff appreciate your kind words. As we mentioned in our last newsletter, we plan to take it week by week and ask you to keep the spirits up and the work coming in, maith sibh ar fad.

## MindUp sa Bhaile/MindUp at Home

*Mar atá ar eolas agaibh, bíonn MIND UP againn dhá uair sa lá gach lá agus na páistí ar scoil.*

As you are aware the children in Scoil Bhríde take part in a MIND UP exercise twice a day with their class teacher. We are enclosing the basic instructions for you to try out a brain break at home. It may prove a challenge or it may just surprise you. Avail of any instrument in the home/toy box that would resemble the sound of a chime and take a brain break with your child. It is proven to level our thoughts and mood and may possibly make the day easier all round for you and your family. Take a screenshot of the instructions and either yourself or your child can read the steps out loud as everyone takes part. Go néiri libh.

### The Brain Break



- I invite you to sit down in an upright, comfortable position.
- Close your eyes or look down at your palms, to be respectful of others in the room.
- Take calm, slow breaths. Gently breathe in and out.
- Keep your shoulders relaxed.
  
- When you hear the chime, listen to the sound as long as you can **(hit chime – wait until you cannot hear the chime)**.
- Bring your attention to your breath **(pause for 10 seconds)**.
- Feel your tummy rising and falling **(pause for 10 seconds)**.
- If your mind wanders, that's ok, just try to bring your focus back to your breath **(pause for 10 seconds)**.
- Feel the air coming into your body and going out again **(pause for 10 seconds)**.
  
- When you hear the chime again, listen as long as you can.
- When you can't hear the sound any longer, slowly, gently open your eyes and look to the front of the room **(hit chime)**.

# Ceisteanna Chuig an Scoil / FAQ

*Seo cuid do na ceisteanna a bhí ag tuisti.*

The following are some questions asked by parents of late.

## **-Are schools opening in September?**

We are very hopeful that our school will be open in September. As with so many matters during the current public health crisis we await further guidelines from the Department of Skills and Education and will update you as soon as we have more details.

## **-Will all classes come back together?**

We are unsure at this moment in time. The Government will decide what is best for all schools.

## **-Will children wear masks?**

Again if this is requested by the government along with any other necessary changes, we will follow the guidelines.

## **-When will the First Holy communion take place?**

The Patron will give instruction to all schools closer to our return. We will be suggesting that two ceremonies take place. It would be our hope that one ceremony takes place earlier in the year for this year's Rang 2 and another later in the year for next year's Rang a 2. Again, parents will understand that we are at the mercy of the situation nationwide and the roll out of the stages during the Summer months and the size of gatherings permitted also. Fr. Reilly will keep us updated closer to the time.

## **-Do we need to get all the work done on google classroom?**

We ask that you cover as much as you can with your child. We would like the children to continue working and stay engaged with their school work. This will help in the return to school and help us also to hit the ground running on our return. Our teachers will continue to assign and correct work until the end of the school year. It would be good to continue with google classroom and now that it's settled down we are here to help troubleshoot. The feedback from teachers can be very motivating and might help reduce stress levels. We do understand that school work from home is difficult and that some days can just not work out like we had hoped. As we asked in our last newsletter, when this happens we ask that you just accept it as that- if you give the set work your best shot then you have done your best. It would be a good idea to focus on revising tables (saying them out loud) going over the tunes we have done on the tin whistle, our sounds/phonics and poems. It is so important to continue to read.

## **- Troubleshooting Google Classroom**

If your child is not currently engaging with their virtual classroom, we would strongly encourage you to get them up and running. Our teachers are providing a lot of content and daily corrections of work submitted. We are hearing that families are finding this helpful in motivating the children to stay focused on their work and keeping them engaged in daily learning.

*Please let us know if you have any particular difficulty that's preventing you/ your child from using Google Classroom and we will do everything in our power to help overcome it with you.*

## **-Are we getting school reports this year?**

Yes, our teachers are currently preparing the school reports. We feel it is wiser to avoid families picking up reports at the school. Therefore the reports will either be posted or emailed to our families.

## **-When will children sit standardised tests?**

The tests will take place in line with guidance is received from the Department of Education .

*\*If you have any more queries please email them to [scoilbhride2@hotmail.com](mailto:scoilbhride2@hotmail.com) and we will answer them as best we can in the next newsletter\**

## Campaí Samhradh/Summer Camps

*Tá sé am do tuistí tosnú ag rá lena leanaí nach mbeidh aon campaí ar siúl i mbliana.* It would be advised that parents begin to explain to children that the Summer Camp the school usually organises in July will not take place this year nor will the planned Stretch & Grow camp. Helen looks forward to seeing the children when we return to school.

## Grúpaí Comhrá/Whatsapp Groups

The administrators of whats app groups by default have become what was known as a class rep. Now more than ever parents in each class group need support. If you notice that a parent is missing from the group it is important to reach out to them and include them in the group. It is a platform where parents can avail of support from each other. They may need help with google classrooms or need a hand in getting their heads around how it all works from a parents perspective.

It is also a platform where we ask you to tread carefully. It is important to remember that it is the school authorities only that will have accurate and factual answers to possible questions shared in a group. It is important that in order to ensure you avoid any unintentional upset, to refer questions back to the school. We will address them in a phone call or email or next newsletter. This will avoid any unnecessary anxiety or worry. Again if there is a family missing from your group, reach out and include them. We need a community to keep us well. Let's avail of this tool to nourish our well being in a time that we don't get to see each other at the school gate or at the bike shelter as we once did.

## A Reminder of Strength in Unity

Irish history is truly a mix of hardship and times where our strength was needed to pull through terrible times. In one of our darkest chapters during the great famine the Irish received support from the Choctaw Nation Tribe. It is surreal to think that a tribe so far away held us in their thoughts, a small country like Ireland, thousands of miles away where its people and your ancestors were dying of hunger.

Organisers of an online fundraiser to help vulnerable Native Americans during the Covid:19 pandemic have thanked Irish donors for the large donations made to date. We truly are a wonderful, proud and giving nation of people with long and thankful memories and who continue to think of others at home and abroad even when our own spirits may seem low. As recently as Last Friday night the people of Ireland donated over one million euro to Pieta house. Remember you are not alone, reach out and talk to someone if you're not feeling yourself. **It is ok not to be ok** .

Our strength will get us through Covid19 as we are asked to stay at home and mind ourselves. It is important that this generation of children understand that being kind and helpful and having patience is what's needed to keep us all safe and together. We, as a nation are made of strong stuff, we can do it and we will.