



Nuachtlitir Scoil Bhríde

Uimhir 18 Márta 2021/ March 2021

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

Nóta ón bPríomhoide

A thuistí,

Táimid ag teacht chuig deireadh ár dha seachtain ar scoil le chéile leis na bunranganna. We are coming to the end of our second week of our staggered return to in-school education. As of Tuesday, the Government announced the return of all classes as of next Monday the 15th of March. It also gave instructions to schools as to guidelines and expectations of parents and if rigorously adhered to, will keep the school community safe during re-opening. They emphasise that all measures must be followed carefully by pupils, staff and parents.

Schools have been directed to avoid organising events that could lead to the congregation of pupils. We are also asked to remind parents and pupils not to congregate in school grounds/drop off /pick up or in the carpark. We ask at this point that you take the above as seriously as possible and as much as we are returning to in-school education, that you all avoid each other at the above times. We are all still in vulnerable positions. The successful re-opening and staying open will depend on our collective behaviour in the weeks ahead.

Help us ensure we stay open. As per our previous newsletter we ask, sleepovers and unnecessary mixing of families is avoided as children return to school. And as much as we love to chat, we ask to make do with a wave for the time being and to always wear a mask at pick up and drop off times.

Our return over the last 2 weeks has worked well. We are entirely segregated from the wonderful works of the HSE and our traffic plan in this regard has worked very well to date. We thank our Naí-Rang 2/3 parents for their patience and cooperation to date.

The same COVID protocol will be in place thus parents with children with symptoms must keep their child at home and if the child becomes unwell during the school day the parent(s) will be called and asked to pick their child up immediately. Please ensure we are made aware of any changes to your circumstances in regards to your list of contacts.

We again ask you to continue to respect everyone's safety, wear a mask at all times, keep your distance and schedule meetings /chat with teachers rather than delaying their return to class with class groups. We need to be swift in our movements to ensure safety and mixing of classes on arrival and at pick up times.

We welcome everyone back next Monday and we ensure we will make the return transition as smooth as possible for your child.

Le meas
Máire

Dataí le teacht/ Upcoming Dates

Filleadh ar Scoil R3- R6

15/3/2021

Seachtain na Gaeilge

1/3/2021-17/3/2021

Lá éide glasa/Wear Green to School

16/3/2021

Lá Fhéile Pádraig/St. Patrick's Day

17/3/2021

Saoire na Cásca/Easter Holidays

26/3/2021-9/4/2021

(Half-day 12pm
26/3/21)

Clocks go forward

28/3/2021

World Autism Day

2/4/2021



Drop Off/Pick Up - HSE Stewards

On your way into the Killanin Stand there are two lanes of traffic which are clearly marked. Scoil Bhríde traffic stays to the left. Let the steward know you are going to the school and on arrival we will give you a yellow card identifying you as a school family which you can then show to the steward on subsequent visits, avoiding having to roll down the window. Drop-off is supervised from 8.40am and children enter the building at 8.50am. Children should only be dropped off when there is a staff member in sight and ready to receive them. If you are arriving late, you should **call Susan on 089 2633203**, walk your child up the steps at the front of the Killanin Stand and Susan will escort them to class. (N.Bh and N.Mh also call Susan if late and she'll arrange for one of the teachers to open the grey door at the Weigh Room). We have been asked to point out that on days when the Vaccine Centre is operating, there is a high volume of pedestrian and car traffic crossing our entry/exit route. Please drive slowly, yield to pedestrians and crossing HSE traffic.

Return to Educational Facility Declaration form

Scoil Bhríde wants all families and school staff to feel as reassured as possible that everyone in our school community is adhering to the latest public health guidelines, thus making our school as safe as possible. You are therefore required to submit a Return to Educational Facility Form prior to sending your child back to school. We will text this form to you at lunch time on Sunday, you should submit it before 6pm on Sunday evening.

Mask Wearing

Our staff are required to wear face masks throughout the school day. It is currently not required for children to wear masks at primary school. No child will be discouraged from wearing a mask if that is your family's decision. We'd remind parents that they should wear a mask when entering school grounds.

School Attendance/TUSLA

We understand many families may feel apprehensive about sending their child back to school in the current COVID climate. As with illness or other family reasons, if you choose to keep your child at home on days when the class is open due to worries about COVID/vulnerable family members, they will be recorded as absent on our school management system. When a child misses 20 or more days in a school year we are obliged to report this to TUSLA, the child and family agency. If the school has received green forms with adequate explanation for the absences, the report to TUSLA is always marked as of 'No Concern', and no follow-up will be carried out. Therefore, it is very important that, in these days of more frequent absences, you submit the green form to your child's teacher.

Fuinneoga Oscailte/Windows Open

As per government guidelines, all classrooms will be ventilated by open windows throughout the school day. Please ensure your child has adequate and warm clothing, an extra vest/t-shirt. As before, we will be taking the children outside to run around and walk the racecourse regularly. Appropriate rain gear and footwear are advised daily.

Leabhair na bpáistí/Children's school books

For those children returning, please ensure your child brings all of their school books back to school on Monday.



Cathain a mbeidh an scoil reidh? /When will our school building be ready?

As it currently stands, it looks likely that we will return to school after the Easter Holidays to our own school building in Menlo. We will keep you updated.

Letter from CMO Dr. Ronan Glynn to parents

Please read the enclosed letter to parents from the acting Chief Medical Officer to parents.

Ceisteanna/Questions

Please submit your questions/comments here. We will reply to you directly or issue an update via Newsletter if appropriate.



[Ceisteanna/Questions](#)

[Click here](#)

Paidir Phádraig

Críost liom, Críost romham,
Críost i mo dhiadh, Críost ionam,
Críost fúm, Críost os mo chionn,
Críost ar mo lámh dheas,
Críost ar mo lámh chlé.





Dr Ronan Glynn,
Deputy Chief Medical Officer,
Department of Health,
Miesian Plaza,
50 – 58 Lower Baggot Street,
Dublin 2.

26 February 2021

To parents and guardians,

Through your hard work and willingness to buy in to public health guidance over the past two months, we have made real progress in suppressing the most recent wave of COVID-19. This progress has meant that primary and post-primary schools and the wider provision of childcare can now commence on a phased basis.

The importance of schools for the overall health and wellbeing of children cannot be overstated, and the risk of COVID-19 has been carefully weighed against the very real harm that can be caused by sustained school closures. Schools are at the heart of our communities and they play a fundamental role in the social lives and wellbeing of our children; this is particularly true for children who have special educational needs, are disadvantaged or who may have been disproportionately impacted by school closures over the last year.

Our priority is to ensure a safe return to schools for students, their families and school staff, which is why we have recommended a phased return to in-school learning.

In making this recommendation, the NPHET's most significant concern is that it will be taken as a signal by parents and wider society that other forms of household mixing, and mobility are now acceptable.

We cannot afford for this to happen at this time. Despite the progress we have made, COVID-19 is still circulating at high levels in our communities. We must do all we can individually and collectively to ensure that the reopening of schools results in the minimum possible upward pressure on the reproduction number.

Please avoid congregating at school gates over the coming weeks. Please do not have play dates or organise after school activities which involve household mixing. And please continue to work from home unless essential. It is only through your continued buy-in to these measures that we can ensure that our children will get back to school and then stay back in school.

I know these are difficult requests. We all – adults and children alike – want to meet up with our friends and neighbours and get back to our old routines. And we will get there.

We now have three very effective vaccines with, hopefully, three more on the way. Over the coming weeks, older people, and those at high or very high risk of severe disease will be vaccinated and we will see substantial increases in supply from April onwards. And we are already seeing the very



positive impact of vaccines in our nursing homes and among our healthcare workers. If we can combine this rollout with a continued suppression of the disease through March and April, we will have many more options in terms of easing of measures and should be able to provide much greater levels of certainty to people about the months ahead.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for all you have done to keep your family and our communities safe over the last year. I also want to thank all teachers, principals and school staff who have worked so hard to ensure measures have been put in place to limit the risk of spread of COVID-19 in schools. It has been this kind of work, done quietly and by the majority, which has underpinned our national response to COVID-19 and which, ultimately, will see us through to brighter days ahead.

Kind regards

Dr. Ronan Glynn,
Deputy Chief Medical Officer,
Department of Health.