



Uimhir 3 Lúnasa 2020/August 2020
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Nóta ón bPríomhoide

A thuismitheoirí,

Ta súil agam go bhfuil sibh ag déanamh go maith agus ullamh chun tósnú ar scoil. We hope everyone is looking forward to returning to school and that you are familiarising yourself with our new back to school routines.

Since our last nuachtlitir the preparations for our return have continued both inside and outside around the school grounds. Again a big thank you to the parents who took part in the clean up last Saturday, an amount of work took place, we are blessed to have you all on board. Also míle buíochas to Múinteoir Máirtín for preparing the garden plots for the children's return. To Múinteoir Cian & helpers for the amazing colour of bunting that's out to welcome our children back to school.

Since our survey we have been compiling answers as best we can, as guidelines seem to change weekly. See below for a question you may have had and we will continue to answer any further questions as we all adjust to the new approach to our school days.

We remind all our school community that your full cooperation is needed in staying ahead of COVID-19. Please avoid chatting/gathering of groups/chatting at drop off and pick up times. We need to avoid mixing families and the possibility of the spread of the virus at these times. It will be hard at first but worth it for our school community.

We understand that there might be a little bit of information overload and that this might all seem very serious. It is of course a very serious situation and we would ask you to read our updates carefully and take some time to understand what is happening. Then, please take some time to give the information that you feel is important to your child at a level they will understand. The more they know about how things will have changed, the more secure they will feel in coming back into school. All of our teachers and staff are excited and enthusiastic to welcome the children back. We have made plans to ensure that the three days of children's 'first day back' next week will be very happy and special. While taking everything very cautiously and carefully, let's also treat it as a celebration of coming back together.

Finally, the very best of luck and céad míle fáilte to our new and returning preschool children and staff of Bóin Dé who start back tomorrow.

*Le meas,
Máire*

Dataí le teacht/ Upcoming Dates

Chéad lá ar ais/First Days Back

* see inside for more details

31/8/2020 Naíonáin
Bheaga & Naíonáin Mhóra

1/9/2020 Rang 1 & 5 ag
tosnú

2/9/2020 R6, R2/3 R3/4
ag tosnú

Oíche Cúlra Culture Night

18/9/2020

Chéad Coimíneach / First Holy Communion

26/9/2020

Seachtain Spás/Space Week

4/10/2020—10/10/2020

Seachtain Mata/Maths Week 10/10/2020- 18/10/2020

Saoire Lár Tearma / Mid- Term Break

26/10/2020—30/10/2020

Saoire na Nollaig / Christmas Holidays

22/12/2020-6/1/2020

Ceisteanna/Questions

We asked parents to submit any questions they may have, we have addressed them in this newsletter. See answers below.

Bus Scoile/School Bus

- *What are the arrangements for the bus?*
- *In relation to children on the school bus and staggered start & finishing times, how will they be managed?*
- *My child is signed up for the school bus this year, what are the arrangements for the children getting off the bus? In relation to children on the school bus and staggered start & finishing times, how will they be managed?*

We have spoken to Bus Eireann and they have agreed to wait both in the morning and evening times to accommodate for both our staggered times.

The bus will wait until the child's arrival time.

Children who arrive by bus will stay on the bus and join their line at the chosen arranged staggered time. When being collected children will leave school at their arranged time and the bus will wait until all of the children finish school at their allotted times before leaving the bus zone.

The bus will leave school once it has collected the children from both the 2:30pm and 2:40pm time slots.

Rang 2/3 & Rang 3/4

- *Rang 2 is to be combined with some of rang 3. As rang 3 are required to social distance, how will this affect the children of rang 2?*

Pods will be in place in all classes from the naíonáin to 6th. In line with current guidelines, we will be making a stronger effort to maintain distance between pods from 3rd to 6th, in recognition of those children being able to understand the new rules a bit better. This same approach will apply in the R2/3 classroom.

- *Will Rang 3 still be split?*

Yes, the department of Education has very clear rules about the use of teachers allocated to a school. Scoil Bhríde has 7 mainstream class teachers, resulting in one class needing to be split.

- *Can the full Rang 3 class be put in the same group please?*

Due to allocation of teaching staff by the department at primary level, schools nationwide are unable to join split classes together. Scoil Bhríde hopes to put arrangements in place so that the Rang 3 children who are split this year will be able to play together on the yard. We will not be in a position to have them together on wet days. This will be reviewed on an on-going basis.

Gallúnach/Soap

- *Does the school soap contain Aloe Vera/my child has an allergy?*

No. We use a high foaming bactericidal soap. There is no aloe listed in the ingredients.

Gnáthamh Maidine/Morning Routine

- *Will the children still line up each morning?*

Children will line up in the morning as normal and will be collected by their class teacher from their line and walked to their classroom. Each class group is considered a bubble and when in the school building they are assigned to a pod. While they are in the yard/open air they are free to mix and play as normal within their bubble. Lines will need to be orderly and will be spaced well apart from other bubbles. The line direction and location will be different this year. We will issue a map and as always, we will have a chair with the class name

Ceisteanna/Questions

in position on the first day, as well as lots of happy teachers to welcome the children.

Resource Teaching/Múinteoirí Acmhainne

- *Will resource hours still take place outside the classroom?*

Schools nationwide are awaiting guidelines in regards to best practice in this area.

Ag Éirí Tinn ar Scoil/Falling Ill at School

- *What is the process if a child falls ill in school with flu symptoms?*

If a child falls ill in school the class teacher will inform the Príomhoide and the child will be placed in the sick bay area located downstairs. (see photo)

Susan will call you.

You will be asked to collect your child from school.

If the child presents with symptoms indicative of COVID-19, they and the príomhoide will put on a mask.

Further detail on this in the Covid Response Plan.

Per current advice, if there were to be a suspect case/confirmed case of Covid-19 we would from that point operate under the guidance of the HSE and follow their instruction.

As per our previous newsletter, we suggest you visit your GP with your child before your child returns to school.

Athruithe/Changes

- *What physical alterations have taken place in the school?*

Over the course of the summer we have been busy clearing classrooms so that there is the maximum amount of space available to teachers to maintain distance between pods. Hand sanitizers have been installed throughout the classrooms, corridors, offices and support rooms. Storage shelves/boxes have been installed by the front door for teachers to store and retrieve their visors/masks as they enter and leave the building.

New paper towel dispensers have been installed beside every sink for drying hands after washing. We will be sharing photos and some videos with our school community over the coming days. We have established an isolation area downstairs which will be screened off with perspex. We have made available a former support room upstairs as a second isolation area in the event that one is needed.

Bolgán agus Faighneog/Bubbles and Pods

- *What do you mean by 'class group', 'bubble' and 'pod'?*
- *How many children will be in each class group, bubble and/or pod ?*

Under current guidelines schools are asked to create bubbles and pods.

Should there be a suspected case of COVID-19 in the school or should a child be diagnosed with Covid-19 these bubbles and pods will enable the HSE to identify close contacts of the child and any possible course of action there after.

Bubbles and Pods are being used to limit the transmission of the virus throughout the school.

Each class is a bubble, in the same way a family unit is considered a bubble.

A pod is a group within this bubble, each bubble (class) will have between 4-7 pods.

Your child will be familiar with the pod system because we are used to seating our children in groups in the class.

We have been directed that each pod remains the same for the first term.

When in the classroom, each pod is required to stay in their pod, they are not permitted to walk around the class nor to change pods, nor are they allowed to share resources/equipment.

When they are outside for break time, the pods may mix together within their bubble.

Bubbles (classes) will not mix as they used to on the yard. The pod system will be in place throughout the school and more carefully adhered to in the senior classes (R3 - R6)

Ceisteanna/Questions

- *Will the older children sit with their friends in pods?*

All pods will contain friends and children will also play with their friends in their class bubble at playtime.

Múinteoirí/Teachers

- *According to the Dept of Education "significant additional measures are being adopted to increase the supply of teachers at both primary and post-primary level" will this mean that extra teachers will be employed by the school?*

This does not mean that primary schools will have extra classroom teachers in the building on a daily basis, these additional teachers are effectively substitute teachers.

The *additional teachers are being used in the following ways for primary schools.*

A) in the case where a teacher in the school has fallen ill (any illness)/has to isolate or if a family member (i.e. child) of the teacher has fallen ill, a sub teacher will be needed. Up to this point where a teacher was out sick/a family member was sick, primary schools were not entitled to a sub for the first day of sickness, family emergencies etc... For the past couple of years it has been difficult for schools to secure substitute teachers and so classes were dispersed on those days. In light of Covid-19 classes can no longer be dispersed into other classrooms. The department are trying to alleviate that problem this year.

B) in schools where the principal is teaching in a classroom they are now entitled to an administration day one day a week where they can employ a sub for that day.

Malaí Scoile & Lón/School Bags & Lunch

- *Can my child bring their lunch box to school in their schoolbag?*

Currently our plan in decluttering the classrooms, we are asking pupils to leave their schoolbags at home. Pupils can carry their lunchbox in a lunch bag or in their hand to school. A small sized schoolbag/backpack may be used where a pupil is walking, cycling or getting the bus to school.

Chéad Coimíneach/First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion for last year's Rang 2 will take place on the 26th of September in Castlegar Church. In order to ensure safety, we will not be joined with either of the other parish schools, ensuring our efforts to keep our class bubbles safe for their return to school the following Monday. Two ceremonies will take place, 10am and another at 1pm after the church has been cleaned. We'd like to thank Canon Reilly for accommodating us so early in the new school year. The guidelines provided by the parish will be followed. Their lovely dresses and outfits can be worn to school on the Monday and we will do our best to engineer a class photo safely.

	Arrival at 8:40am	Arrival 8:50am
Dé hAoine 28/8/2020		
Dé Luain 31/8/2020	NBh.	Naí Mh.
Dé Máirt 1/9/2020	NBh. R1	Naí Mh. R5
Dé Céadaoin 2/9/2020	NBh. R1 R2/3 R6	Naí Mh. R5 R3/4
Deardaoin 3/9/2020	Gach Rang - all classes	Gach Rang - All classes

Ceisteanna/Questions

Group A	Group B
Náí Bheaga R1 R2/3 R6	Náí. Mhóra R3/4 R 5
<i>Arrival</i> 8:45 - collection from yard 8:50	<i>Arrival</i> 8:55am - collection from yard 9am
<i>Going Home</i> 1:30pm (Náí Bheaga)	<i>Going Home</i> 1:40pm (Náí Mhóra)

- Junior infants will go home at 12pm for the first two weeks.

Further Questions?

The form to submit questions/queries remains open and monitored. Please click this link to access the form: <https://forms.gle/dyeGV8CTptFzR53r5>