20 Lúnasa, 2020.

A Thuismitheoir / A Chaomhnóir,

Tá súil agam go bhfuil tú féin agus do theaghlach ag coinneáil go maith. I trust you and your family are keeping well.

Following on from my letters of 29th June, please find information below regarding children’s return to school.

**Please read carefully.**

**RANG 1**

An information meeting will be held for the parents of Rang 1 children on **Wednesday, 26th August, at 7.00pm** in the Gaelscoil. **Social distancing will be maintained.** Only ONE parent from each family is asked to attend. NO CHILDREN ARE TO ATTEND, PLEASE! Go raibh maith agat.

**RANG 5**

Children will make their First Holy Communion on **Thursday 27th August in the Holy Rosary Chapel, Ballinascreen at 6p.m.** The service can be viewed via Parish Webcam. Only immediate family may attend. There will be a further practice on Tuesday 25th August from 10a.m.-12p.m. in the Holy Rosary Chapel.

Children do not attend Gaelscoil on Monday, 31st August.

Children in Ranganna 1 – 7 will attend according to timetable sent out on 29th June. This will allow children and parents to get ready for “New School Day”. Please adhere strictly to Drop off times 8.45a.m. & 9.a.m. in the morning. This information can be viewed on our School Website

Pick up times have been slightly changed which can be viewed on the School Website

[www.gaelscoilnaspeirini.org](http://www.gaelscoilnaspeirini.org)

**CHILDREN AND STAFF SAFETY WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE PRIORITY AT Gaelscoil na Speiríní. We ask for your full co-operation and support for our new procedures at the Gaelscoil. Go raibh maith agat.**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

* No assembly.
* Only break and lunch to be brought into school in disposable packaging or washable plastic lunch box/washable plastic bottle – recycled if possible, please! Packaging will be disposed of daily in school.
* Other drinks for lunch to be sent in disposable container, e.g. tetra pack.
* NOTHING ELSE TO BE BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL, e.g. no school bags or pencil cases.
* No Sos Club until further notice. Children in Rang 1/2 can bring a piece of fruit/healthy snack eg. Pancake or Sandwich.
* Canteen services will not be available in the week 24th – 28th August – please send packed lunch with Rang 7 children.

**PUPILS AND STAFF MUST NOT ATTEND SCHOOL IF THEY DISPLAY ANY SIGNS OF COVID-19 ILLNESS.**

**COVID-19 SYMPTOMS -**

* A high temperature
* A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);
* A loss of or change in sense of smell or taste.

Quarantine: If children have been out of the island of Ireland during this summer, they must have completed two weeks’ quarantine before returning to Gaelscoil na Speiríní.

**ARRIVAL - STAGGERED TIMES**

*Siblings arrive at the same time – N.B. Children to use double gates*

*8.45 a.m.*

*9.00 a.m.*

**24 – 28th August: Children will use double gates.**

**ON ARRIVAL AT GAELSCOIL**

* Sanitising station at all doors to classrooms.
* Children go directly to classroom.
* Children wash hands on arrival in classroom.
* Coats are kept on chairs.
* Children sit directly opposite their name on the table.

**PROTECTIVE *BUBBLES***

* *Bubbles*will be as self-contained as possible anddecrease interaction between children and staff throughout the Gaelscoil.
* Every class – children and staff -will function as a self-contained *Protective Bubble.*
* *Protective Bubbles* in the playground – cones will be placed between two classrooms/Bubbles.

**SOCIAL DISTANCING**

* Adult to adult: 2 metre
* Adult to pupil: 2 metre – as far as is practicable
* Child to child: *‘…the aim should be to maintain at least 1m social distancing for as much of the time as achievable.*
* Recognised that 1 metre social distancing between children is not always possible, e.g. playground.
* *Young children particularly at pre-school and the Foundation Stage cannot reasonably be expected to remain apart from each other throughout the day.* (DENI)
* PARENTS ARE NOT TO COME INTO THE GAELSCOIL.
* **Pastoral care will prevail, however.** Rang 1 parents are permitted to come into the play area until children settle but they will be encouraged as soon as possible to leave the children at the gates. Parents of Primary 1 must vacate out the back gates.

**HAND WASHING**

* Emphasis to be placed on embedding this practice during first week of return.
* Young children to be supervised – step provided in each classroom.
* Hand washing – soap and water - on arrival to classroom, before break, after break, before lunch, after lunch, before going home.
* As necessary!!
* Similar practice for all staff

**FACE COVERINGS**

* Children do not need to wear face coverings at school.
* Pupils should wear a face covering on all buses or taxis.

**CLASSROOMS**

* Tables 1 metre apart facing forward.
* Frequently touched surfaces to be cleaned regularly. Toilets cleaned after break and lunch.
* Each child has separate box on table to keep pencil, rubber, sharpener, etc. (provided by school)
* Ventilation in all rooms – open windows where, and when, possible.

**CURRICULUM, 24 – 28th AUGUST for Rang 7.**

* Pastoral Care activities.
* Development of spoken Irish.
* Explanation, discussion and practice of new routines in new school day.

**GOING HOME – DEPARTURES**

* R.1– 12pm (Until 2nd Oct.): Back gate.
* R.2 – 1.55pm: Back gate.
* R.3/4 and other siblings - 2.35pm: Back gate
* R.5/6 and other siblings 2.45pm: Back gate.
* R.7- 2.55pm: Back gate.
* Social distancing to prevail.
* PARENTS ARE NOT TO COME INTO THE GAELSCOIL.

**COMMUNICATION**

* Parents are welcome to phone class teacher via Gaelscoil office – 028 777 42529
* Parents will receive copy of class teacher’s e-mail. This may also be used to contact teacher.
* If teacher and parent have an arranged meeting by appointment, social distancing is to be maintained.

These measures will be in place until further notice. Please note that arrangements may also change at short notice. I ask for your co-operation and understanding as we commence a school year unlike any other. Please contact me at any time if you have any questions or concerns. Go raibh maith agat. We look forward to seeing all the children back at Gaelscoil na Speiríní. Dia libh go léir.

Is Mise le Meas,

Seána Uí Cheallaigh,

Príomhoide.