



A thuismitheoirí/choimeadaí, a chairde,

I hope you are all enjoying the summer holidays as much as you can at this stage. I know you are wondering about returning to school and how that may look. At the moment, below is our plan but this may change depending on guidance closer to the time. We look forward to seeing your child as they return to school, we realise that this may be an anxious time for some children but our aim is that each child and all staff return in a safe manner and we therefore have to adhere to guidance issued by the Department of Education and the PHA.

### **PLAN A:**

Our ultimate aim is to achieve maximum face to face teaching time for all children at the earliest opportunity

At the moment, our hope is that all children will be returning to school as they would be after any summer holiday. We do plan to bring children back a week earlier than normal but in stages beginning the week 24<sup>th</sup> August. As soon as children return, they are back at school full-time from there on in.

### **Return date for classes**

- *24 August:* Rang 7, Rang 5, Naíscoil Dhoire group, Rang 1 group, Rang 2 group

Múinteoir Nuala will be in contact regarding start dates and times for Naíscoil Dhoire children.

We will also be in contact about start dates for Rang 1 who will be phased in over time in groups.

To give Rang 2 time to settle back, we will also be bringing them in in groups during the first week. More information will follow about groups soon.

- *25 August:* Rang 4,
- *26 August:* Rang 3, Rang 6

### **Arriving at school**

Arrival time for FAMILIES will be staggered by family surname.

For all others, arrival will be as normal. (8.55am)

School gates will remain locked until 8.45 each day.

Start times and home times will be staggered until further notice.

Please adhere to these times as much as possible

Sloinnte/Surnames	Arrival	Home Time
A - E	8.55	For the first two weeks, Rang 1 will begin at 9.30 and finish at 12.00. For the third week, times will be from 8.55 until 12.30. Normal finish times will then be from 1.50-2.00
F - K	9.05	Rang 2: 2.00
L - M (M, Mc, Mac)	9.20	Rang 3: 2.35
N-Z	9.30	Rang 4: 2.45
		Rang 5: 2.50
		Rang 6/7: 2.55
	If transport is available, those children will be accompanied to class when they arrive.	For the first 2 weeks, an older sibling may go home at the same time as a younger sibling.

- If there are differing surnames within a family, follow the surname of the oldest child.

We request that parents do not enter the school grounds. Exception will be made for Naíscoil Dhoire, Rang 1 and Rang 2 children who may be accompanied to the door of the classroom. Only one adult will be allowed to accompany a child to the classroom. More guidance about this will follow soon.

For rang 3 and Rang 4 children, school staff will be at the top and bottom gates until children themselves are confident in coming into school on their own.

Rang 5-7 can walk to the classroom on their own. Their teacher will be in class to meet them.

These dates will be reviewed as time progresses or sooner if guidance dictates it.

### Home time

At home time, parents are asked to remain outside the school grounds until the designated school pick up time. School staff will walk your child's class to the gate. Parents must adhere to social distancing guidance whilst waiting for their child. While we all enjoy having a chat, we advise to leave after you pick up your child.

## **PLAN B:**

If guidance still advise us that we have to adhere to 1 meter social distancing, we will have to bring the children back in groups. (group A and group B) We discussed various options and the staff and the governors agreed that one group will be in school on Monday and Tuesday, the school will be closed on Wednesday for a deep clean and the second group of children will be with their teacher on Thursday and Friday. Children at home will be guided by work set by the teacher on days that they are not at school.

Blended learning will continue to take place, teachers will be preparing for this on Wednesdays and the other days. As children are not allowed to bring anything into school or from school, home works will be online at the moment.

(Blended learning is when children cannot learn in schools for some or all of the time, provision will be made for remote learning at home, )

**PLAN B: Group A will be in school Monday and Tuesday.**

**Group B will be in school Thursday and Friday.**

We will inform you of children in each group closer to the time.

## **In Class**

On the 18 June 2020 the Executive agreed that the current social distancing guidance of 2m must be followed between all adults within the education sector but that a distance of 1m is appropriate between children and young people while using a 'protective bubble' strategy.

Keeping children in 'protective bubbles' is a means of decreasing interactions between groups until further easing of measures is possible based on the public health situation.

Each class and/or group will be known as a 'protective bubble'. Guidance advise that no bubble will mix with other bubbles in order to minimise risk. This will also include break and lunch times.

Break times will be staggered.

Lunch times will also be staggered and school meals will be delivered to and eaten in the classroom.

Parent Pay will mean that no dinner money will be handled in school. Information to follow about Parent pay

## School Equipment

Rang 2-7: When children return to school, they will be provided with a pack which will include a pencil, rubber, sharpener, colouring pencils, ruler, pritt-stick and small scissors. Rang 1 will be provided with a similar pack when they need it.

We advise that each child has their own similar pack at home to complete homework tasks.

The school stationary pack will remain at school as no items will come to school or go home from school each day.

Essentials that can be brought to school are; a water bottle, a healthy snack, a plastic washable lunch box if not receiving a school meal and a coat.

No school bags or any other items should be brought in until further notice.

We plan to spend a lot of time outdoors, please ensure your child wears a coat with a hood every day.

### HYGIENE & MINIMISING RISK

Regular and thorough attention to hygiene is essential to halt the spread of the virus.

Please ensure your child is familiar with regular handwashing and the correct procedure for doing this.

Please emphasise to your child about coughing and sneezing etiquette.

They should have a small packet of tissues for convenience. Reinforce the "catch it, bin it, kill it" approach and coughing into the elbow if they don't have a tissue.

Children will wash their hands after arriving at school, before and after break and lunch and after using toilet facilities and regularly during the day.

Any family away/returning from holidays, please adhere to guidance issued by the PHA.

*If your child is feeling unwell or showing any symptoms within the last 24 hours, please keep them at home and they **DO NOT** attend school until they feel fully recovered in order to lessen the risk to others.*

### If a child becomes unwell at school

If a child becomes unwell at school or presents with any of the symptoms; temperature, continuous cough and/or change in smell and taste, they will be removed from the

bubble and taken to a designated area, they will be supervised by a member of staff until a parent arrives.

A deep clean of that area will then take place.

Staff or pupils who have been part of the same protective bubble as someone who has/ develops symptoms and/or who tests positive for COVID 19, must follow the PHA isolation guidance. All contacts within the same bubble as a person with symptoms or who tests positive will have to self-isolate for the required 14 day isolation period. They can return to school when they have completed the necessary period as advised by the Test Trace and Protect service. This will limit any transmission to those staff/pupils within the bubble and will assist in protecting the wider community.

### **Visitors to school**

In order to keep class bubbles and staff protected we will be adhering to strict guidelines on visitor access to the school. Visitors will be asked to phone the office prior to visiting the school and must only attend for essential school business.

If parents need to collect children during the school day, they will also need to phone the office and we will arrange safe collection.

We are hoping that these measures will be temporary and we can resume to a more informal approach very soon. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need to speak to us.

\*After school clubs will not run when we first return to school. This will be reviewed as we move forward.

\*Information about classes will also be forwarded soon.

This Return Plan will remain in place until the current guidance changes. Additional information will be sent out during the week 17<sup>th</sup> August-21<sup>st</sup> August 2020. Further information will follow but be mindful that this could be subject to change as guidance from the Executive, the Department of Education and PHA change. During the coming months, it will be important that we work together and that we all take personal and collective responsibility for the safety of ourselves and others.

Please email the info account from the week of the 17th August if you have any queries

Tugaigí aire/ Take care

Máire Mhic Lochlainn

