

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The resumption of school-based teaching and learning and the return to schools of staff and students must be done safely, in strict adherence to the advice and instructions of public health authorities and the Government. We have been working very hard over the last few weeks putting measures in place to reduce the risk of spreading Covid-19 in the school.

There will be a number of changes to school life when students return to Scoil Mhuire on the week beginning August 31<sup>st</sup>.

With the exception of students arriving by bus, students should be dropped off at the school gates after 8.30am. All students must go directly to their assigned areas.

Students are encouraged to walk or cycle to school if possible.

To pick up a child during school hours, please notify us using the school App (more detail next week). Do not enter the school. Phone the office from the car park and your son/daughter will be sent out to you. All visits to the school are by appointment only.

Classrooms have been reconfigured where possible to allow 1m social distancing during lessons.

Each class will have their own classroom and students will be based in that room with the exception of practical classes and PE. Teachers will go to classes rather than the previous system of students moving. Each year group classes will be based in the same area.

As per current guidelines, all students and staff will wear face covering. The school will supply a visor. Students are expected to wear a visor in class and a mask or visor anywhere else in the school where 2m social distancing cannot be maintained.

Each classroom has its own sanitiser dispenser and wipes will be provided to students to wipe desks and chairs before class starts.

There will be an enhanced daily cleaning programme for all classrooms, toilets and corridors.

Lockers will not be provided this year. Students must bring their daily requirement of books to school with them and bring them home again that evening. Pupils cannot share any books or stationery.

At break and lunch time students will leave their classrooms and have their break in their designated area of the school.

Any behaviour that impedes on the health and safety of others will result in a strong sanction.

All staff will complete Covid-19 induction training. All students will receive precise instructions regarding precautions and behaviour.

Students must wear school uniform each day. It is not necessary to wash the uniform each day.

Students must be kept at home when they have a high temperature, cough, breathing difficulties or loss of taste or smell. Students should also be kept at home if feeling unwell.

Pupils must stay at home for 14 days after returning from a country not on the Green List even if testing negative for Covid 19.

If showing symptoms in school, a student will be isolated and parents/guardians called. Parents/Guardians must collect their student immediately and contact their GP.

Any shared resources will be wiped down at the end of the class.

Pupils and staff will wash their hands regularly, using the proper technique.

Students are responsible for appropriate physical distancing where possible and they must behave responsibly at all times.

All schools are awaiting further guidance from the DES. Upon receipt of these guidelines we will be refining our approach and will communicate these details at the earliest possible opportunity.

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back and will work together to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Kind regards

Padraig Nolan