



Gaelscoil na Móna
& Naíscoil na Móna
Primary School
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Striving Together for Achievement

Dear Parent / Guardian,

30th June 2020

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well. It is hard to believe that it has been 15 weeks since the children were in school. It has been a challenging time for us all as we have had to adapt to the 'new normal'.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all sincerely for your continued support and hard work with 'Home Learning'. You have been amazing! I also need to thank all of our teachers who have continued to support and provide work for the children in these unprecedented times, as well as all auxiliary and support staff. We are blessed with a dedicated and committed staff. Our pupils' safety is paramount and when we return to school we will adhere to the Public Health guidance.

The Education Minister, Peter Weir, issued guidance to schools on Friday 19 June 2020 on how to prepare for the 'New School Day' through its 'Education Restart Programme'. This document is the first of a series of guidance documents aimed at providing an appropriate structure for the **gradual** return of full time education for all pupils.

The key elements of the guidance most relevant to us can be summarised as:

- 2m social distance between all adults
- 1m social distance between all children in Primary Schools.
- Staggered arrival/pick up times should be considered.
- Minimum of 40% face-to-face contact.
- Protective bubble strategy to be used (especially where social distancing will be difficult).
- Social distancing and increased hygiene measures throughout school.
- Blended learning approach should be implemented.

Therefore, for the **first 4 weeks of term** as we assess the developing circumstances and await further guidance, we will implement a phased return to school. There are also implications within the guidance for access to the school grounds and building. In order to ensure the safety of all, the school grounds will be NOT accessible to cars.

Gaelscoil na Móna pupils' attendance will be for a **half-day session** (either am or pm), 4 days each week Monday to Thursday, allowing us to deep clean on Friday and for teachers to plan for and monitor home learning.

The arrangements will start on Monday 17th August 2020, as follows:

Monday 17th – Friday 21st August

School Staff prepare for safe return of children

Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th August 9-11:00am

Rang 7 pupils return to their previous R6 teacher, Gerard Larkin for welcome back and induction into R7 class.

Tuesday 25th 9-11:00am

Rang 6 pupils return to their previous R5 teacher, Caoimhe Scullion for welcome back and induction into R6 class.

Rang 5 pupils return to their previous 4 teacher & Eibhlín for welcome back & induction into R5 clas*s.

AMENDMENT

Wednesday 26th August 9-11:00am

ALL Rang 4 pupils return to their R3 teacher Eibhlín for welcome back & induction into R4 class.

Rang 3 GROUP A pupils return to their R2 teacher, Gráinne Lawless for welcome back and induction into R3 class

Rang 2 GROUP A pupils return to their s R1 teacher, Fiona George for welcome back and induction into R2 class.

Thursday 27th August 9-11:00am

Rang 3 GROUP B pupils return to their R2 teacher, Gráinne Lawless for welcome back and induction into R3 class

Rang 2 GROUP B pupils return to their R1 teacher, Fiona George for welcome back and induction into R2 class.

Monday 24th - Thursday 27th August

New Rang 1 Pupils and Parents will attend Naíscoil na Móna in small groups for graduation from Naíscoil with Seánna, to meet new Primary One Teacher Gráinne and for completion of registration forms.
(*Rang 1 pupils will return again from Monday 1st September in small phased-in groups*)

Starting from Tuesday 1st September 2020

New routine will begin in earnest with all Rang 1 – Rang 7 pupils attending according to timetabled sessions.

Arrival:

Caireann & Eamon & Classroom Assistant greet all arrivals at front gate.

- Reminder of social distancing
- Guide to point of entry to school
- Markings at 2m interval on approach to school gate
- Children admitted, parents to exit school grounds following one-way system
- Only Rang 1 and Naíscoil parents will be allowed to accompany children to the front door of each building, where they will be met by teacher and Classroom Assistant.
- Secretary & Office available by phone or appointment only.

- **R2-7 Group A arrive at 9.00am strictly every Mon to Thurs & collected from front gate at 11:30am**
 - R2 Front door (Fiona)
 - R3/4 Classroom rear door (Eibhlín)
 - R4/5-7 Upper Cloakroom door (Caoimhe & Gerard)

- **R2-7 Group B arrive at 12:30 strictly every Mon to Thurs & collected from front gate 3:00pm**
 - R2 Front door (Fiona)
 - R3/4 Classroom rear door (Eibhlín)
 - R4/5-7 Upper Cloakroom door (Caoimhe & Gerard)

Seánna Naíscoil na Móna

Preschool children start 1st September with a 50% maximum attendance and split sessions. Individual letters to follow.

Gráinne Rang 1:

Individual letter being sent about start times & Graduation / Induction slots during week starting 24th August & Start dates and times from 1st September phased in in small groups, maximum 50% of pupils

Fiona Rang 2:

R2 Group A (**9-11:30am**) ~ Scarlett, Fionnbarr, Mia, Éirinn, Grace-Ann, Ollie, Lillie-Mae, , Culann, Elissa, Michael, Eden, Ché

R2 Group B (**12:30-3pm**) ~ Penny, Paige, Carllo, Stephen, Rossá, Maddison, Caséy, Shyla, Cameron, James, Kaidén

Eibhlín Rang 3/4:

R3/4 Group A (**9-11:30am**) ~ Grace, Hollie, Lily, Shanagh, Patrick, Caoimhín, Cole, Aodhán, Niall, Amy, Sophia, Zakri, Lola

R3/4 Group B (**12:30-3pm**) ~ Eva, Róise, Gerard, Joshua, Brooke, Skylah, Rónán, Jake, Cailan McM, Jaden, Angello, Odhrán

Caoimhe 4/5:

R4/5 Group A (**9-11:30**) ~ Aodhán K, Naoise, Rory, Máire, Mollie, C. McCusker, Cora, Francis, Aoibhín, Kalen, Caomhán, Liam, Micheál, Darragh

R4/5 Group B (**12:30-3pm**) ~ Lughaidh, Daithí, Adam, Caitlín, Ruby, Scarlett, Sophia, C.McCabe, Riley, Shay

Gerard R6/7:

R6/7 Group A (**9-11:30**) ~ *All Rang 7 pupils*

R6/7 Group B (**12:30-3pm**) ~ *All Rang 6 pupils*

Children greeted by Teacher at Classroom door:

- Hand sanitiser used
- Social distance reinforced
- Straight to classroom to meet teacher, where they will remain for the day

Exit:

- Caireann & Teachers to manage exit of children to parent/carer
- Children escorted to school gate by teacher.
- Older children (P5-7) permitted to collect younger siblings, with parental consent.
- Exit by same door as entered
- R2-7 Group A exit at 11.30am & Group B exit at 3.00pm

Protective Bubbles:

- Established to contain children of similar profile
- Maximum size 50% of class
- Consistent membership – enhances possibility of track and trace measures in event of infection/symptoms and minimises contraction of virus across classes and within families.

General:

Preferred attendance mode as all children will be in contact with their teacher 4 days each week

- Ability to accommodate all children for equal amounts of time.
- Smaller group sessions will allow for more intense educational provision.
- Children must bring snack and reusable bottle for water to school.
- Children must bring in pencil case, pencils & colours, which can be easily disinfected/ sprayed in school.
- Enhanced cleaning measures will be implemented throughout the school, including classroom hygiene between morning and afternoon sessions.
- Friday will be used as an opportunity for an enhanced clean in every room and for teachers to plan and prepare resources for the home portion of this blended learning model.
- There will no written be homework and no reading books sent home with children initially.

Meals:

- **Only** Free school meals are available initially as packed lunches, delivered to classrooms
- A packed lunch must be provided by parents unless child is entitled to free school meals. Sent in disposable packaging only. No lunch boxes.
- Every child entitled to Free School Meals will be able to receive them each day attending (Monday - Friday)
- No paid meal provision – cash handling concerns/admitting adults to school.

Whilst we realise that this is not the ideal mode of attendance for all children and families, we must implement the most appropriate measures to ensure safety and welfare of all within the Gaelscoil na Móna family. We will endeavour, in line with developing guidance, seek to return to full a timetable for pupils at the earliest, possible opportunity.

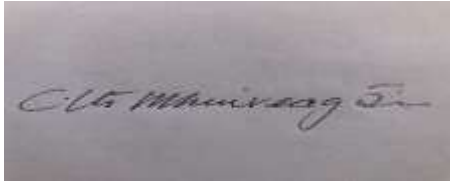
This is a very challenging and daunting time for all adults concerned with the care and education of children and I fully appreciate you may have concerns relating to this proposed plan. I would also like to reassure you that this plan will be regularly reviewed, taking account of emerging scientific and medical advice, throughout the summer and any changes will be notified to you in a timely manner. I would also like to reassure you of my commitment, and the commitment of all staff, to providing the highest quality education for your child in the safest possible manner.

Breakfast Club, Gap Club and Homework Club will not be available initially.

Operational Guidelines will not be released from DE to schools until mid – late July. This makes planning for the new term extremely difficult. Please continue to check school text messages and our social media pages, particularly in August for updates.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy, happy and fun packed summer break and I look forward to welcoming you all back to Gaelscoil na Móna in the new academic year. In the meantime, please stay safe.

Is mise le meas,



Caireann Uí Mhuireagáin,
Príomhoide

**Rang a hAon (Primary 1) Parents will be issued with a separate phased intake letter*

*** Pupils with individual Classroom Assistants will be issued with guidance for full attendance with their CA*

****Naíscoil na Móna Parents will be issued with a separate phased intake letter*

