



Gaelscoil an Móna
Nursery & Primary School
1 Monagh Link
Belfast
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Striving Together for Achievement

3rd July 2020

REVISED ADMISSION to Nursery Unit in Gaelscoil na Móna – September 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions

A Thuismitheoir / Parent, a Chara,

Further to the letter you received in April this year, 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.

The normal school day will run from 9:00am–2.00pm, but at present we are planning 50% maximum pupil attendance at a time, with split sessions, Monday to Thursday with a deep clean and planning for remote learning every Friday. Please note the following dates as a settling-in period for the first three weeks:

Group A will attend earlier session & Group B the later one.

Beginning on Tuesday 01/09/2020 – 04/09/2020 he/she will attend one short session in the morning only 9:00am – 10:00am OR 11:00-12:00pm Tuesday-Thursday.

*** this will be according to the needs of each individual child and how well they settle in initially.*

On Monday 7/09/2020 they will attend from 9:00am- 10:30am OR 11:30-1:00pm Mon-Thurs.

On Monday 14/09/2020 they will attend 9:00am-11:00am OR 12:00 – 2:00pm Mon-Thurs.

From Monday 21/09/2020 onwards each day Monday-Thursday, they will attend 9:00am-11:30am OR 12:30pm- 3:00pm.

Meals will not be available for preschool children. Please ensure your child gets lunch when you pick him / her up at 11:30am or before they start at 12:30pm

Naíscóil parents will be allowed to accompany child to front door of building to be met by Teacher & Classroom Assistant. Parents will follow the one-way system, which we will have in place and marked out. All other parents must only enter school grounds by appointment only.

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, clearly marked.
- 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.

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.

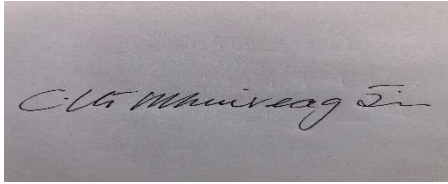
This is a very challenging and daunting time for all adults concerned with the care and education of children and I fully appreciate you may have concerns relating to this proposed plan. I would also like to reassure you that this plan will be regularly reviewed, taking account of emerging scientific 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, (Karen Morgan)
Príomhoide (Principal)

Group A	Group B
Tomás	Leah
Anna S	Lola
Aibhlinn	Leon
Maisie	Georgio
Khloé	Gavin
Conin	David
Flynn	Dubheasa
Fionn	Ríonach F
Anna A	Seán-Micheál
Ríognach MM	Rossa
Jacob	Fírinne
Micheál	Jack
Liam	Pádraig

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Gaelscoil Naíscoil na Móna