



Dear Parents

A warm welcome back to you and your children. It is wonderful to see our boys and girls again and to hear the sounds of fun and laughter around the playground. Welcome also to our new Junior Infant parents and children. We are delighted with how our new pupils are settling in this year, in spite of the challenges we face.

Over the month of September, we will be getting the children into a proper school routine, whilst also looking after their wellbeing, physical and emotional health. They have been excellent so far with keeping their hands clean and showing their proper cough and sneeze etiquette. Please encourage these good habits at home also.

As you know, we plan to ease the children into homework gradually with some learning homework given from next week to the end of September. After this we hope to include some work on a learning platform which the children will access digitally. Parents will be kept fully versed regarding our plans going forward.

We strive to make the school experience as normal as possible for the children, however there will be some changes to previous procedures in the school. We ask that parents not send in sweets and cakes to celebrate a child's birthday this school year. As always, birthday invitations and cards cannot be distributed in school.

Parents are also asked to return any money owed to the school in an envelope, clearly marked with the child's name and class. All absences need to be explained by a note in the child's homework journal.

On wet mornings, parents of Junior Infants can walk their children up the main pathway if necessary, where they will be met by a member of staff. We ask that parents wear face

masks when coming inside the school gates and onto school property. We ask all other parents to remain outside the grounds in the morning unless absolutely necessary.

In the interest of pupil safety, children who use the school bus service will be released from school at 2:55 p.m. so that the bus may leave before other children walk from the premises. Parents need to be aware of this change so that they can meet their children at the bus collection point on time.

Public health advice to schools has changed since we released our school re-opening plan. The assistant Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Ronan Glynn has now advised that children with nasal symptoms such as runny nose or congestion without a temperature, can attend school. However, if a child has a temperature with any of these symptoms, parents are asked to keep the child at home and seek medical advice. If your child has nasal symptoms, please practice hygienic use and disposal of used tissues with them at home, so that they can independently look after themselves at school also.

During the month of September, we will be assessing the children's skills in literacy and maths. We are aware that progress may have suffered during the school closure, so we are determined to identify any children with difficulties in these areas at the start of the school year, so that they may receive extra support. If your child needs any additional teaching support in school, you will be contacted by telephone to discuss this.

We look forward to a healthy and happy school year and with your cooperation we hope to keep Scoil Fhursa open and Covid-19 free.

Warm regards

*Noreen Duggan*

Principal