

Scoil Mhuire

Rathsallagh, Shankill, Dublin 18. Telephone: (01) 2823507

Principal: Patricia Slavin Roll No. 19497p E-mail: scoilmhuireshankill@gmail.com

Dear Parents/Guardians,

20th, August 2020.

The BOM and Staff Covid Group have completed our Covid 19 logistics plan for safe re-opening of Scoil Mhuire in September 2020.

We have worked hard to ensure that the necessary measures are in place . We all expect that there may be further changes as the government advice changes so please bear with us! As I said all along, we are all working together to stay well and get back to school safely!

You will find **5** documents attached:

Covid 19 Policy Statement

School Zones Outline

School Map

Staggered Timetable for the first week

Timetable for Induction Day (first day back to school)

There are a number of important changes to our school life as a result of Covid.

1. Covid Prevention Measures will be happening all throughout the day, in every part of the building. Your child's teacher will be enforcing a strict and rigorous hand washing routine. We have had dispensers installed at each classroom door and at all points throughout the school. We will teach the children to use these routinely.
2. We have introduced a STAGGERED TIMETABLE for the first week back i.e. Tuesday 1st Sep - Fri 4th Sep. Please check this staggered start timetable attached. It means that some classes start back on different days. It gives us a chance to get our pupils in safely and avoids overcrowding and confusion in the first few days. We really want a calm, safe and happy start and this staggered start gives us and you that peace of mind.

3. Pods/Bubbles:

Each class from 3rd to 6th will be called a bubble. Within each bubble/class, children will be put in small groups, called Pods. They will stay in these for work and play. The pods will work at 1m socially distanced and the social distance guidelines will be closely supervised in the yard also.

Regarding Infants, first and second class: Each class is its own bubble. You will receive a separate note from your infant's teacher to give you lots of detail on what their day will be like.

First and Second class will be encouraged to sit in pods, but it is realised that social distancing is tricky for Infants to 2nd class. As much as possible, the pupils will stay in their pods at this level also, within government guidelines.

4. Drop off and pick ups: The big change here involves when you drop your child off and where. Please look at the Zones Document attached. You will see that your child's class is in a zone. We will not be having pupils mix in different zones during the school day.

Each class also has a particular place to line up in the morning and to be picked up from in the afternoon. You will see this on the map. This is critical. Please bring your child to the correct spot, at the correct time. Don't come early or late please, as that adds to the risk of infection among the community. You will see from the timetable that each class has different start and finish times. You will get used to this. We know it is tricky for large families but we cannot change this.

Your child's teacher will be at the pick up spot at the set time. Please arrive on time and leave them there.

5. Parents are not permitted to enter the building at this time. You may contact the school in the following ways:

There is a hatch in Edel Flynn's window for drop off of envelopes, fees, lunches etc.

You may email the school to communicate with us.

You can doxo your child's teacher to arrange a phone call .

You may have a zoom meeting to discuss your child.

You may contact our Home School Liaison Teacher, Louise Power.

These are all new ways of working that are very hard for parents and teachers. We will do our best to keep up our home-school relationships as we have worked so well together in this regard before the Summer during the lockdown.

We apologize for not being able to have parents in at this time but ask for your co-operation in this regard.

6. Well-being: All teachers and SNAs are working together to make sure that the work in the first few weeks back is geared to pupils' need to feel safe, calm, happy and relaxed. We will go slowly and recognise how long it is since your child has been in school. We will do lots of activities which promote social and positive experiences.
7. If a child is sick: If your child gets sick during the day, we will contact you immediately. We have a protocol (plan) in place to isolate a sick child displaying covid-like symptoms. Staff are aware of this plan. Make sure Edel has up to date contact information for your child please. Most importantly for all in our community: if your child is sick/unwell/has a fever, runny nose, cough, loss of taste or any of the Covid 19 symptoms, DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD IN.
8. If a member of your family/household has covid or is awaiting a test or has symptoms, please keep your child at home.
9. If you have returned from a foreign holiday or trip, please isolate as per government advice for 14 days. Please let us know and your child's teacher will give work on your child's return.
10. Sharing: Pupils will not be allowed to share items so please ensure your child has all the stationery,copies,books that they need.

Please cover the books with contact so that the books can be sprayed each night at home.

11. Lunches: Pupils cannot share /swap food at this time.
12. Special Needs: SET teachers will work alongside classroom teachers in assigned bubbles but some will also be working in a blended way and be taking out pupils for help in a socially distanced setting.

We realise that the return will be difficult for these pupils in particular and will focus on ensuring that wellbeing is the top of our list when working alongside these pupils.

13. Wearing PPE: Teachers probably will wear masks or visors. In our recent Summer Camp, the children quickly got used to seeing teachers in masks. If your child wishes to wear a mask,that is fine with us too but at this time it is not obligatory.
- 14.. Homework:There will be no homework for the first few days of school. Your child's teacher will let you know what is happening after that.

I realise that there is a lot of information to take in but this is to ensure that every child is happy and safe on their return to school.

Stay safe, Keep well and all the best,

Patricia Slavin.

Patricia Slavin,
Principal.