

Principal's Message to Parents with Children in Scoil Naomh Feichín

Feb. 25th 2021

Hello again everyone –

Hope you and your children are all well and that the arrival of some lovely spring sunshine is helping keep everyone's spirits up.

As you know by now schools all over the country are in the process of reopening their buildings and from next Monday, March 1st, we will welcome back the children in Junior & Senior Infants and First & Second Classes. The targeted day for the return to school for the other class groups is March 15th.

I'm quite sure that your children are very much looking forward to seeing their friends at school again and I can assure you that our teachers and SNAs are delighted that we are now in a position to be able to reopen our school in an environment which is becoming safer by the day.

I'd like to thank you for your patience and cooperation over the last two months as I know that families have done their very best to ensure that children have been using their time away from school productively.

We know that some children found this period very challenging due to the lack of routine and structure as well as missing the social interaction with their classmates. However, I'm confident that all of our pupils will adapt quickly to the new routine of being back at school and it will certainly do wonders for their social and emotional development.

I'm going to send you an email with the text of this message and some other useful information and I'd appreciate if you could have a look at that over the next day or two.

There are a few important points for parents to note so that our transition back to in-school learning goes well –

It's really vital that we keep COVID-19 out of our school and we'll all need to work together to make that happen.

The message for adults and children remains the same as it was before Christmas and we all need to follow the rules and routines to keep each other safe.

Good handwashing and hygiene practices are so, so important for everyone. We will be constantly reminding our pupils about this in school.

Drop off and pick up routines will be the same as earlier this year – we will continue to have staggered start and finish times and we would ask parents to maintain good social distancing around these times and to not congregate outside the school.

If possible pupils should walk or cycle to school if it's safe to do so.

While in school, your children will continue to be organised in classroom pods and class bubbles and arrangements will be in place to ensure that class groups avoid contact with each other.

Parents should also continue to follow public health advice on socialising outside of their household to keep children safe while outside of school.

I would ask all parents to complete a Health Declaration Form before their child returns to school on Monday. You will get this form by email shortly and it can be filled in and returned online.

Children should never come to school if they are unwell or if they have been given a medication like Calpol in the morning.

Please make yourself aware of the list of symptoms related to Coronavirus and stay vigilant at all times. If your child has any of the symptom of the virus, they should not come to school.

Please also remember that if your child is deemed to be a close contact they must self-isolate and not attend school.

Our school building will be cleaned thoroughly every day and we have updated our school's Covid-19 Response Plan and our Infection Prevention Control Measures. All this information is available on our school website.

Unfortunately we will need to continue to restrict access to the school for the moment to staff members and essential workers.

I will attach a number of health information posters in my email to school families and the latest public health advice for parents of children returning to school is available on gov.ie/schools

I and all of our school staff are looking forward to seeing the junior pupils in our school again on Monday next and we are confident that if we all support each other over the next few months we can have a great last term.

Teacher and SNA support for the pupils in the senior classes will continue for two more weeks and if everything goes to plan we'll have all of the classes back with us in mid March.

Thanks again for all your great support and cooperation and take care of yourselves until we can put this terrible pandemic experience behind us.

Bryan Collins
Principal