

 Gaelscoil Aodha Rua,

 97, Bóthar Dhomhnach Mór,

 Dún Geanainn,

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2nd March 2021

RE: Return to school arrangements as per 8th March 2021

A Thuismitheoir dhil,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to commend you on the sterling work which you have been doing at home with your children. Our class teachers report high levels of engagement in both the digital and paper-based tasks and also in the live sessions. Maith sibh agus go raibh míle maith agaibh!

The children have been nothing short of amazing! They have adapted really well to the supported learning arrangements and although we recognise that it has been a difficult time for them, the vast majority of them have been enthusiastic in their approach to the learning tasks. We have lots of exciting activities coming up for World Book day, Seachtain na Gaeilge and Easter as a reward for their hard work.

For anyone who is finding it difficult to motivate their child (or indeed themselves) at this stage, please just lower your expectations and try to set smaller goals for yourself and for your child. We recommend that you encourage your child to complete just one task per day, until they regain their confidence and motivation. Please remember that we are here to help and support you and your child – just drop us an e mail or a message on Seesaw / Google Classroom and we will do our best to help.

Múinteoir Meg is keeping a close eye on the AR, Maths Facts, Numbots, Oxford Reading Buddy and the Timestable Rockstar apps and asked me to remind everyone to encourage their children to do 15/20 mins on one of their allocated digital apps each night. We have paid substantial subscriptions for these apps and we hope that children are making good use of them at home.

**Partial Return to Face to Face Teaching & Learning for pupils in Naíscoil & Ranganna 1-3**

As you have seen in the media, children in Naíscoil and Ranganna 1-3 will return to school on **Monday 8th March**. We are looking forward to seeing the children again and have planned a range of fun, engaging activities for them, to re-build their confidence and to help them to re-adjust to the school routine. All previous health and safety arrangements regarding Covid-19 will still apply and we respectfully ask that your child remains at home if they or anyone in your household has symptoms of Covid 19 or if they have a positive test result.

* The school day will begin at 8.45am and children should be delivered into the care of Áine / Cara at the small green gates. Parents are respectfully asked not to proceed beyond the green gates and not to congregate in the school yard.
* Children should wear their school uniform / sports gear and should bring a coat, as we will be taking every opportunity to learn outdoors.
* Children should bring a healthy snack (fruit / bread product) and a bottle of water for consuming at break-time.
* Packed lunches should be sent in a hard plastic box and all snacks and lunch products should be compliant with our nut-free school policy.
* Arrangements regarding school dinners will be confirmed by Friday.

The school day will end at the following times:

Rang 1 – 1.30pm

Rang 2 – 1.45pm

Rang 3 – 2pm

Parents are asked again not to congregate in the school yard at home-time. Class teachers will bring children to the small yard beside the Naíscoil and parents should adhere to guidance on social distancing and the use of face coverings when on school grounds.

If you have children in various classes, you should pick them up at the finishing time for your ELDEST child. Class teachers will hold on to younger children until the later finish time.

**Homework**

We recognise that the return to school will be un-settling for some children and we predict that many of them will be tired and may take some time to re-adjust to the routine of getting up early and going to bed early. Therefore, we will not be assigning formal homework during this two-week period.

**Supported Home Learning for Ranganna 4-7**

Our supported home learning programme for Ranganna 4-7 will continue, until such times as we receive alternative advice from the Dept. of Education. Home learning packages will be available for collection each Friday between 1-3pm and the usual arrangements regarding digital apps and uploading of work will apply. We understand that many parents will have some children at school and others still at home and we know that juggling both scenarios will be difficult. If you find yourself struggling, please contact your child’s class teacher and we will do our best to provide additional help for you.

**Lá Fhéile Pádraig / St Patrick’s Day**

The school will be closed on Wednesday 17th & Thursday 18th March for St Patrick’s Day.

**Arrangements post Friday 19th March**

Unless otherwise directed by the powers that be, children in all classes will return to supported home learning again on Monday 22nd March, until the Easter holidays, which begin on Thursday 1st April. The road-map to recovery, which was published today, does not indicate any specific dates and will be dependent on scientific data. We hope to be in a position to provide further guidance to parents shortly after St Patrick’s Day.

We are looking forward to welcoming the children back on Monday and our aim is that every child will arrive and leave with a smile on their faces. If your child is particularly anxious, please contact the school office by Friday and we will put additional supports in place for their return. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any of the above arrangements.

Is mise le meas,

Móna Uí Dhochartaigh

Príomhoide