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|  | **Scoil Náisiúnta Mhuire**  **Ballyleague**  **Co Roscommon**  **N39 PX49**  **Roll Number 18061T**  **Tel: 043 3321906** |

27th August, 2020

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

We look forward to our return to school on Monday, the 31st of August. As part of our Covid-19 School Response Plan and in line with *‘The Roadmap for the Full Return to School’* published by the Department of Education and Skills we are putting the following measures in place.

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| **Drop off and collection of children** | * We will be operating a ‘drop & go’ system in the morning. We ask all Parents/Guardians to drop the children **at the school gate** between **9.05 and 9.20am**. They will come straight into the school building and will be seated. The Teachers/SNA will be present at this time to supervise. Children who arrive by bus will come straight into the school. * In the afternoon we will be staggering the release of the children at 3pm. To avoid any delays we ask that Parents/Guardians and children **immediately leave the school and surrounding area.** * Please practise physical distancing when dropping off/collecting your child. |
| **Access to the school/ school log** | * We ask that Parents/Guardians/Visitors do not go beyond the gates of the school. If you need to contact the school or make an appointment please do so by email or phone. Please **do not send in a note** to your child’s Teacher. When entering the school you will need to complete a contact tracing log. |
| **Physical Distancing** | * From Junior Infants-2nd class the children will be put into class ‘pods’ or small groups. There will be a distance of 1 metre between each ‘pod’. * From 3rd-6th a metre will be maintained in the classroom between all pupils. * In order to create more space in some classrooms the teacher’s desk has been removed. In rooms where it remains a distance of 1 metre and where possible 2 metres will be maintained. * The pupils will not mix with other pupils from other classrooms during school hours. * Each child will have their own plastic box at their table to store their belongings. Their coats will be hung on the back of their chair and each chair will be labelled with their name. There will be no sharing of items between pods in JI-2nd or between children from 3rd-6th. * Each classroom will be kept ventilated by keeping the doors and windows open. |
| **Face Coverings/Visors/Masks** | * All staff will be wearing a visor at all times. Where they cannot remain 2 metres from a child they will also wear a mask. At the moment it is not advised that children under 13 wear a mask. |
| **Hand Hygiene** | Pupils will perform hand hygiene:   * On arrival at school; * Before eating or drinking; * After using the toilet; * After playing outdoors; * When their hands are physically dirty; * When they cough or sneeze.   **Hand sanitiser will be provided by the school.** |
| **Homework** | * To prevent contamination all school books will be kept in school. This means that the children will be given oral homework such as tables, spellings and poetry. This will be communicated to Parents by email by the Class Teacher. This will be reviewed as the year progresses. |
| **Additional Measures** | * We also ask that Parents **do not send in slippers** with the children this year. * The children should come to school each day with **just their school/lunch bag and their lunch.** * There will **be no swimming or outside coaches** coming to the school this term. * Where possible we will be using our outdoor space for classroom activities. |
| **Preventing the spread of Covid-19** | **Do not send your child to school if any of the following is true.**  **Your child has:**  • a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more.  • any other common symptoms of coronavirus such as a new cough, loss or changed sense of taste or smell, or shortness of breath.  • been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus.  • been living with someone who is unwell and may have coronavirus.  **You will need to:**  1. Isolate your child. This means keeping them at home and completely avoiding contact with other people, as much as possible. Your child should only leave your home to have a test or to see your GP.  2. Phone your GP. They will advise you if your child needs a coronavirus test.  3. Everyone that your child lives with should also restrict their movements, at least until your child gets a diagnosis from their GP or a coronavirus test result. This means not going to school, childcare or work.  4. Treat your child at home for their symptoms.  I have attached a leaflet from the HSE regarding the return to school. Please find additional information at **hse.ie/coronavirus.** |
| **Dealing with a Covid-19 case in school** | * If a pupil is a suspected case he/she will be taken to an isolation area and they will be given a mask to wear. * The Parents/Guardians will be contacted immediately. |

As we are in uncertain times all of the above will continue to be under review. If you have any questions or concerns please email or ring the school. We look forward to seeing all the Boys and Girls on Monday morning.

Kind regards,

Ms. Fallon

Principal