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

 24th February, 2021

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

I am delighted to say that Junior Infants to Second Class will be returning to school on Monday the 1st of March. Please return all boxes to the school this Friday between 1 and 3pm. A return to school declaration form needs to be completed for each child before returning to school on Monday. I have attached the form to this email. Please complete and return to ballyleaguens@gmail.com.

As we begin our phased re-opening I would also like to outline the following:

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| **Drop off and collection of children** | * We will continue to operate 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.
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| **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.
* When entering the school you will need to complete our contact tracing log.
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| **Physical Distancing** | * Each pupil will be in a ‘pod’ to maintain physical distancing.
* 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.
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| **Ventilation** | * Each classroom will be kept ventilated throughout the school day.
* Windows and doors will be opened to allow the circulation of air. This will be adjusted during colder periods.
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| **Face Coverings/Visors/Masks** | * All staff will be wearing a mask at all times. At the moment it is not advised that children under 13 wear a mask.
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| **Hand Hygiene**  | Pupils will perform hand hygiene:* On arrival at school/ leaving the school;
* Before eating or drinking;
* After using the toilet;
* After playing outdoors;
* When their hands are physically dirty;
* When they cough or sneeze.

Please practise coughing or sneezing into your elbow with your child at home. Hand sanitiser will be provided by the school.  |
| **Additional Measures** | * The children should come to school each day with **just their school/lunch bag and their lunch.**
* Where possible we will be using our outdoor space for classroom activities.
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| **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.* Other uncommon symptoms of Covid-19 such as sore throat, headaches or diarrhoea.
* Returned from another country within the last 14 days.

**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 for JI-2nd Class. Please find additional information at [www.hse.ie/cvdsch](https://www.hse.ie/cvdsch) |
| **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.
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On behalf of the Staff I would like to thank you for all of the time and effort you put into engaging with our online learning. We look forward to seeing all of the Boys and Girls from Junior Infants to Second Class on Monday morning.

Kind regards,

Ms. Fallon

Principal