



Information Update for Parents

August 26th 2020

As we get near to the start of the long-awaited new school year at *Scoil Naomh Feichín*, here is some information that I hope you will find helpful.

- The school reopens for all pupils on **Friday August 28th**.

School Starting Times:

- School starting times will be staggered according to family surname.
- Parents should clear the drop off area as soon as possible to allow space for the next car to pull in.
- Pupils should not arrive at the school earlier than their allotted time as there will be no access to the school grounds and no supervision as all teachers will be in their classrooms.

<u>9.00am</u>	Pupils with Surnames beginning with A, B, C, D, E, F & G
<u>9.10am</u>	Pupils with surnames beginning with H, I, J K L M, N & O
<u>9.20am</u>	Pupils with surnames beginning with P, Q, R, S, T, U V W X, Y, Z
<u>9.30am</u>	Pupils in Junior Infants (siblings can arrive at this time also for the first two weeks)

School Finishing Times:

<u>12.30pm</u>	Junior Infants – Week 1 & 2
<u>2.00pm</u>	Senior Infants from Aug 28 th / Junior Infants from Sept 14 th 2020
<u>2.40pm</u>	Pupils with Surnames beginning with A, B, C, D, E, F & G
<u>2.50pm</u>	Pupils with surnames beginning with H, I, J K L M, N & O
<u>3.00pm</u>	Pupils with surnames beginning with P, Q, R, S, T, U V W X, Y, Z

Entry Points to the School:

Class	Teacher/s	Entry / Exit Points
Junior Infants	Ms Cartmill / Mrs McGuinness	Reception Gate – Large Green Gate into Yard
Senior Infants	Mrs McCluskey	Reception Gate – Large Green Gate into Yard
Sen Infants / 1st	Mrs Cassidy	Reception Gate – Large Green Gate into Yard
1 st Class	Mr McCann	Gate beside Steps – Enter through Rear Door
2 nd Class	Ms Clinton	Gate beside Steps – Enter through Rear Door
5 th Class	Mrs McManus	Gate beside Steps – Enter through Rear Door
6 th Class	Mrs Fahy	Gate beside Steps – Enter through Rear Door
3 rd Class	Ms Brannigan	Gate beside Steps – Enter through Front Door
4 th Class	Mrs Hurley	Gate beside Steps – Enter through Front Door
5 th Class	Ms Clayton	Gate beside Steps – Enter through Front Door

- **Uniforms**

We expect pupils to wear their school uniforms unless instructed by their class teacher to wear their tracksuit.

- **Hygiene, Hand Washing and Sanitising**

Please help your child/ren to practice the correct way to wash their hands thoroughly.

Please remind your child to wash their hand before they leave the house to come to school each day.

At school your child will wash their hands several times during the day.

Sanitisers will be provided in each classroom and children will be encouraged to use them.

No personal sanitiser bottles are permitted but we would like each child to have at least one packet of tissues for their own use.

Frequency of Hand Hygiene –

- ✓ On arrival at school
- ✓ Before eating or drinking
- ✓ After using the toilet
- ✓ After playing outdoors
- ✓ When hands are physically dirty
- ✓ When a child coughs or sneezes.

- **School bags, books and copies**

For the first few days, please ensure that your child brings the minimum number of items to school. We will need to keep the classrooms free of clutter and unnecessary books and stationery.

- **Lunches**

Good, wholesome, nutritious food for lunch is recommended. Please don't pack too much food. All uneaten food will be replaced in the lunch box and taken home. As all drinking fountains at school will be locked, please ensure that your child has a bottle of water with them each day.

- **Access to the School**

Unfortunately, access to the school is restricted so please telephone ahead if you wish to speak to the secretary or a member of staff - 041 9822589.

- **Breaks for the Pupils**

There will be two scheduled 20 minute breaks each day for each class group.

Teachers are encouraged to take the pupils outside for at least one other period so that the classroom can be ventilated.

- **Enhanced Cleaning**

Additional cleaning staff have been employed by the Board of Management and the cleaning hours doubled. The school cleaners have undergone training in new cleaning practices and cleaning of the school will be monitored closely.

- **Classroom Layouts**

Changes have been made to the positioning of desks and chairs in each classroom to adhere to government social distancing guidelines.

▪ **Teaching & Learning**

The curriculum will be adapted to take into account the children's long absence from school. During the initial weeks of the new school year, opportunities for talk and discussion will be especially important for children so that they can articulate their experiences of the pandemic – both positive and negative – as they attempt to normalise the experience.

Our primary focus will be on assessment of pupils' needs, revision and consolidation of previous learning before any new learning is undertaken.

Homework will not be a priority for the moment.

▪ **Attendance at School**

To ensure the good health and safety of our pupils and staff, it is absolutely imperative that parents do not send children who are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 to school.

These symptoms include –

- ✓ High Temperature
- ✓ Cough
- ✓ Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- ✓ Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

Please never give your child medication in the morning to reduce a high temperature if you intend to send him/her to school.

▪ **Responding to a Suspected COVID-19 Case at School**

In our school's *COVID-19 Response Plan* there is a clearly laid down procedure in place to deal with suspected cases of Covid -19.

This plan is published on the school website – www.scoilnaomhfeichin.ie

It is vital that the school has up-to-date contact details for parents of all of our pupils so please make sure that we have your current mobile numbers and email addresses on record.

Thank You

Useful Videos for Parents

Back to School Video for Junior Infants – Second Class

https://youtu.be/92MLB_0nq8Q

Back to School Video for 3rd – 6th Class

<https://youtu.be/MVlb0jAm55Y>

Protecting your child & others from COVID-19 coronavirus

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/40e9c-protecting-your-child-from-coronavirus/#what-to-do-if-your-child-has-symptoms-of-coronavirus>

Explaining coronavirus to your child

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/partner-resources/coronavirus-explanation-for-children.pdf>

Teaching your child to wash their hands properly

<https://youtu.be/EfQvLTOsKNc>