



Return to School – March 2021- Scoil Mhuire, Horeswood

February 24th 2021

Dear Parents,

We received notification last night that some of our classes would return to school from Monday. The remaining classes will return (subject to Public health advice) on Monday March 15th.

The last number of weeks have been tough on many families and in particular the children. They have been unable to interact with their friends which is so important for them in so many ways.

I have outlined some of the return to school procedures below. Please read them carefully. Parents will also receive further communication before the weekend regarding return to school.

The landscape has changed somewhat in terms of the new variants of COVID-19 and there are many unanswered questions about how that will impact things in the future. As a school we will do our best to ensure that everyone is safe. We cannot do this alone however. It will require the support of all families and the wider community to ensure that the community remains as safe as possible.

We look forward to the return of pupils on Monday albeit in a limited way. I hope they are as happy as we are to return to our school building next week.

Take care and stay safe,

Brian Flood
Principal

Classes Returning

All classes from Junior Infants to 2nd class will return to school on Monday, March 1st. As we have a 2nd and 3rd class split in our school, all pupils in that class will return on Monday. This will mean that all Ms. Doyle's 3rd Class will come in on Monday and Ms. Hannigan's 3rd class will continue to learn remotely for two more weeks. This was the direction given to us by the Department of Education.

Arrival: On arrival at school children will go straight to their assigned seating in their classrooms, this is to minimise the mixing of class groupings and limit contact. There will be no morning yard time before classes begin and children will not be permitted to move between rooms. Children will be asked to hand sanitise on entering.

Dismissal: Classes will leave the school in a staggered manner to ensure social distancing. We request parents/ guardians collecting children to be on time and practice social distancing at all times.

Junior Bus and Front Gate (up to 2nd Class): 2.55 p.m.

Junior Back Gate (up to 2nd Class) 3:00 p.m.

Dismissal of Junior and Senior Infants:

Junior and Senior infants have been assigned to a coloured group before Christmas. If they have forgotten what group, they are in please drop your child's teacher an email.

Junior Infants are to be collected from the front yard. Senior Infants are to be collected from the back gate. **We request parents/guardians practice social distancing at all times.** The group's collection times are as follows:

Junior Infants		Senior Infants	
Red Group	1:50 p.m.	Green Group	1:50 p.m.
Yellow Group	2:00 p.m.	Purple Group	2:00 p.m.
Blue Group	2:10 p.m.	Orange Group	2:10 p.m.

The Department of Education and Skills has asked schools to remind parents that congregation before and after collection of children is to be avoided. Please arrive at the appointed collection time and leave once children have been collected.

School Buses: Children are asked to adhere to all Bus Eireann Guidelines.

Hand Hygiene: At various times during the school day pupils and staff will perform hand hygiene. It is important that parents also make children aware of the importance of good hand hygiene and cough etiquette.

Sharing

Even though as parents and teachers we always would have encouraged sharing amongst the children, the times we live in simply don't allow this. I would be most grateful if you could remind your children to avoid sharing their pencils colours etc. in school. Please ensure belongings are labelled where possible.

Lunch times:

Junior Infants to 2nd Class: Break 10:45 to 10:55 Lunch: 12:00 to 12:30

School lunches will be available as normal from Monday

Zoned Yard. Children will go to their assigned zone based on class level and will not be permitted to go to a different zone. There will be a distance of 1 metre between each zone. Children will be familiar with this arrangement from before Christmas.

Access to the school

Access to school will be strictly by appointment only: Following Department of Education guidelines access to school will be restricted to essential purposes and limited to those who have obtained prior approval from the school office/principal. This is to ensure the safety of students and staff. Any visitors will be requested to complete a contact tracing log.

Cleaning and sanitising of the school

The school has a cleaning programme in place since last September, when schools reopened after the last school closure period. The school building and all rooms are sanitised every evening. Toys and resources used in classrooms are also sanitised after use.