

## Scoil Mhuire, Horeswood

### COVID-19 measures for a safe return to school- August 2021

We hope all our families are keeping well and looking forward to a safe return to school. Given that COVID-19 is still quite active we have had to make a number of adjustments to how our school operates. Outlined below are some of the steps that we will be taking to ensure the safety of students, staff and the wider community.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Class): 2:50 p.m.

Senior Bus and Front Gate (from 3<sup>rd</sup> Class upwards): 2:55 p.m.

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

Senior Back Gate (from 3<sup>rd</sup> Class upwards): 3:05 p.m.

Dismissal of Junior and Senior Infants: Junior and Senior infants will be assigned to a coloured group. 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:

<b>Junior Infants</b>		<b>Senior Infants</b>	
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.

Please see the separate document which outlines the procedure for infant's children.

**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.

**Lunch times:** Lunch times have been staggered to reduce the volume of children on yard at any one time:

Junior Infants to 2<sup>nd</sup> Class: Break 10:45 to 10:55      Lunch: 12:00 to 12:30

3<sup>rd</sup> Class to 6<sup>th</sup> Class:      Break 11:00 to 11:10      Lunch: 12:40 to 1:10

School lunches will be available as normal.

**Zoned Yard:** The playground will be zoned into class levels for playtime on 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 1metre between each zone.

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. Drop in visits to the office or classrooms and drop offs of forgotten items cannot be accommodated.

**Social Distancing within the classroom:** Our classrooms from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> have been re-arranged to ensure a distance of 1m between children. Children will be assigned a specific seat by their class teacher. Children are asked to only sit in their assigned seat.

**Uniform:** The uniform policy still applies. Please ensure all items are clearly labelled.

**School Books:** All purchased school books are to be brought in on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August.

**Illness:** If your child is feeling unwell in anyway, for the protection of other children and staff, please do not send your child to school.