

Reopening Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh , C

2020

Document 2

21st August 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Our school staff are looking forward to welcoming all our pupils back to school for the 2020/2021 school year on Thursday, August 27th.

Here in Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh, Cailíní, we have worked exceedingly hard during the summer months to put measures in place so that our school can re-open in a safe manner on Thursday, August 27th

The responsibility of keeping COVID-19 out of our school is the responsibility of the whole school community. The measures our school have put in place will only work if our school community decides to take care of each other and also to co-operate with us in the implementation of these measures, as outlined in our Re-opening Plan Stage 1 which you received earlier. Let's work together to keep our children in school and to keep all of us – children, parents, grandparents, childminders, school staff, our families and other vulnerable people we may know – free of COVID-19. Any relaxation of our measures could result in a COVID outbreak in our school, which no one wants.

Our Aim is to keep “S.S.N.C Covid Free”

There will undoubtedly be unforeseen challenges and these will be dealt with as they arise.

Some very important points to remember are:

- No children on schoolyard before 8.35a.m
- Parents/Guardians must wear masks at all times when dropping and collecting.
- Parents must stay 2m apart.
- Parents are asked not to attempt to give any messages/information to teachers/S.N.As on duty at the school gates. Adults' sole duty here is to ensure children enter the school grounds safely and to provide that special welcome for all our pupils each morning.

- If there is a day when you must share information with the school, please e mail Anne at admin@bishopstowngirlsschool.ie
- All absences must be reported by e mail on the first day of illness to the above e mail.
- Each child will come to school with hands free and washed before leaving home, ready to sanitize with one bag on her back. To avoid carrying excess weight on Day 1, please bring Maths and English books. These will be kept in school on Day 1 and on Day 2, please bring the remainder and her copies.
- Every item must be named clearly, uniform, pencils, books copies..... all un named items will be disposed of immediately for health and safety reasons.
- Parents are not allowed enter the school building and school grounds except at the invitation of the Principal to attend a meeting.
- You do not send your child to school if he/she is feeling unwell, displaying a cold, cough or flu-like symptoms in the morning. We have so often been told... *"Oh! but she really wanted to come"* you must remember, you are the adult and you must make the decisions. It won't always be easy.
- Please inform your child that if she reports unwell to the class teacher, that our new procedure is to bring her to a special room, called an 'Isolation Room' until collected by a parent.
- Please make sure all contact details are up to date and make sure your phone is turned on at all times.
- Before school re-opens, please ensure you have practised correct hand washing techniques with your child. (<https://www2.hse.ie/wellbeing/how-to-wash-your-hands.html>)
- All soaps, sanitizers and paper towels will be provided by the school.
- Children should have a packet of tissues in their school bags at all times.
- Older children from 2nd class up may wish to have a packet of disinfectant wipes in their bag if they see the need to wipe down the table in addition to the school's cleaning routines.
- Make sure that all lunch boxes and items in the lunch box can be opened without the assistance of an adult. e.g. if a child cannot open a banana, there is no point in giving one for lunch.
- Please make sure all lunch waste is removed from school bags each day. It would be a good idea to spray school bags with a dilute solution of Milton or similar type product regularly and allow to dry in the fresh air.
- Children will bring home all lunch waste as was the case pre Covid.
- All paper towels will be placed in pedal operated waste bins so young children should be able to dispose of towels in a pedal bin.
- We will ensure children get outdoor breaks between two and three times each day. Our new outdoor classroom will ensure children can have an opportunity to spend an additional slot outdoors each day.
- All school books and copies must have plastic coverings.
- Book rental books will be assigned to children in the first few days of the term. Each will be labelled with the child's name.
- Homework will be assigned on a phased basis as and from Monday, September 7th.
- Children must not ask any child if they can borrow materials from one another.
- Uniforms will be worn on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, Tracksuits on Tuesdays and Thursdays to assist you with laundering arrangements.
- Uniform= pinafore, shirt, bow tie/tie, cardigan, white ankle socks or black tights, black shoes. Knee socks are not part of the uniform.
- Track suit= Track suit top and bottom and white polo shirt and runners.

- School shorts and white Polo shirt can be worn when the weather is warm. Please do not send your child to school in shorts if the weather is chilly as she may be uncomfortable/cold during outdoor classes and unable to concentrate.
 - We have a supply of nearly new uniforms available. We will be in contact next week with details of availability.
 - Children who have travelled from countries not on the Green List should not attend school during the 14 day self-isolation period.
 - Financial contributions/ payments: In future, all financial payments will have to be paid through Easy Payments. No cash/cheque transactions can be processed. Please do not send cash to school with children.
 - Teachers will have Perspex screens on their tables. Please have a chat with your child to explain how this will help keep her and her teacher safe.
 - All meetings with teachers must be by appointment and with prior approval of Principal. In so far as possible, all verbal communications with teachers should be via phone.
 - There is an arrow system operating in the hallways and corridors. Please chat with your child about the importance of following the arrows and also to stand back to allow someone pass if space is limited.
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- New terminology: Class(es) = Bubble; Group of pupils within a class = Pod.
 - We will have eight bubbles in the school, one for each year level. Children will play in bubbles in the yard. There will be four bubbles at play at any one time. Children will have twice as much space per child as they did in pre Covid . Please chat with your child about the importance of allowing other children space in the yard and not to, in any way, engage in games that would encroach on another pupil's personal space.
 - Pupils must not bring any sort of toys to school. We understand this may be difficult for infants. All school toys will be disinfected after use each day. No fluffy type keyrings attached to pencil cases or school bags. For older children, no watches or watch type devices, bracelets or rings to allow for thorough hand washing and sanitising. As per school rules one simple stud type ear ring is allowed in the lobe of each ear.
 - For children with special educational needs, S.N.As and Special Education Teachers will work with children using a perspex screen or a visor. It would help your child greatly if you chatted with your child about this and role played at home, where possible.

Finally. I would like to take this opportunity to say a very special thanks to Anne, our secretary, for the amount of effort she put in to ensuring the school will reopen safely on August 27th. I do this, on your behalf, as parents and your families, on behalf of the B.O.M. and that of the staff. Since March 12th, Anne was constantly, day or night at the other end of a phone, text message, e mail or What's app for me. She sourced, ordered, and tracked whatever was necessary, from her own home in the midst of family life. As supplies became unavailable at one point, she sought another. Every delivery required a payment and that was all done too. As a school community, we deeply appreciate all you have done for us, Anne. Hopefully when we reopen your work will be a little easier.

Go raibh míle maith agat. Anne

And last but certainly not least, to all our S.S.N.C. girls, can I say we are so excited about having you back with us and especially welcoming our new Junior Infants. It has been a long, long, time since you were in school but that is not a problem at all. We will all be there to welcome you and as I said on March 12th, there would be a treat for all who worked hard at home. I have not forgotten that !!

We will all look after one another, and help keep one another safe in every way possible and I am asking each girl to treat those around you with real kindness. It has been a hard time for many people but now that we will all be back together again, we hope we will see lots and lots of smiles on all your little faces.

Kind regards

C. Bean Uí Shúilleabháin