



Scoil Mhuire
Return to School
Information
August 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The entire team at Scoil Mhuire are really looking forward to welcoming the children back to school. In advance of this, we would be very grateful if you could read through the following guidance to ensure our return to school is safe and pleasant. Please note that if your child has been abroad to a country that is not on the Government Green List, they must quarantine on their return to Ireland for 14 days in line with HSE guidance.

Return to school dates:

- Senior Infants - 6th classes, along with Miss Waters, Miss Daly and Miss Wright's class will return on Thursday 27th August.
- Junior Infants will commence on Tuesday 1st September.

Morning drop off times:

In order to assist with drop offs, we are asking families to come in at staggered times, depending on your surname.

Pupils whose surnames begin with A-H	Pupils whose surnames begin with I-P	Pupils whose surnames begin with Q-Z
9.00am-9.10am	9.10am-9.20am	9.20am-9.30am

Please note our agreed procedure for using set down area correctly. We encourage families to walk and cycle where possible.

Entering the school:

Teachers will be in their classrooms from 9.00am to receive pupils. There will be no congregating on yard. Children will go straight into their classrooms once dropped off via the following doors-

Junior Infants	Door 1 - Old front door, next to steps
Senior Infants	Door 2 - Old back door, beside PE hall
1 st class	Door 1 - Old front door, next to steps
2 nd class	Door 3
3 rd class	Door 3
4 th class	Door 3
5 th class (Ms Mahony/Ms O'Sullivan)	Door 4
5 th /6 th class (Ms Reddan)	Door 2 - Old back door, beside P.E hall.

6 th class (Ms Mahon)	Door 4
Ms. Waters, Ms. Daly, Ms.Wright	Main Entrance

Learning support teachers will be at entrance doors to supervise the safe entry of pupils and to assist pupils in finding their correct entrance.

No adults will be permitted to enter the school.

Pupils' finish times:

Class	Time
Junior Infants	2pm
Senior Infants	2pm
1 st class and siblings in senior classes	2.45pm
2 nd class and siblings in senior classes	2.45pm
3 rd class	2.55pm
4 th class	3pm
5 th class	3pm
6 th class	3pm

Once you collect your child, please leave the set down area.

Yard breaks:

- Children will have 2 x 20 minute breaks throughout the day. They will attend yard with their own class.

Uniforms:

- Children will wear their uniform as usual.

Materials:

- Children must bring in their own materials (pencils, pens, rulers, colours etc), clearly labelled, as there will be no sharing of materials.

Book Rental:

- Children with outstanding book rental may bring these items in to school in a plastic bag, labelled with their child's name.

Homework:

- To allow children to settle back into school routines, they will only receive literacy homework for the first month of the new school year. Senior classes may be asked to do some research.

Combined Learning:

- Teachers will be using Seesaw this year. We encourage all parents to use this brilliant tool. In the unfortunate event of a school closure as directed by HSE at any stage, your child's teacher will be using Seesaw to support their learning.

Communication:

- The following methods of communication will be used by the school to keep in touch with you.
 - Aladdin Connect (For messages from Principal to parent)
 - Seesaw. (For contact with your child's teacher)
 - Important school notices will also be posted on our website scoilmhuietullamore.ie, school Facebook and twitter pages.

We ask that you contact the office on (057) 9321222 or email info@scoilmhuietullamore.ie with any queries you may have. In order to minimise the risk of infection from Covid -19 to our entire school community, please avoid arriving at the school unannounced, where possible. There will be space only for one person/family group at any given time in office lobby area.

Meetings with teachers/Principal will be via appointment only and must be scheduled in advance.

Covid 19 Information:

Symptoms

In order to prevent the spread of Covid 19, it is important to know and recognise the symptoms. They are:

- High temperature
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- Loss of smell, of taste, or distortion of taste.

Please do not send your child to school should they display any of these symptoms. Phone your doctor and follow HSE guidance on self isolation.

Control measures

Hand hygiene

Each classroom is supplied with a sink, warm water, soap, hand towels and a contactless bin. There are numerous hand sanitising points dotted throughout the school. Children will be performing hand hygiene throughout the day:

- On arrival at school
- Before eating or drinking
- After the toilet
- After playing outdoors
- When their hands are physically dirty
- When they cough or sneeze.

Children may bring their own hand sanitiser if they wish and we recommend that they bring a supply of tissues .

Physical Distancing

The aim of the school is that class groups will mix only with their own class from arrival in the school in the morning until departure at the end of the day. This is known as a "Class Bubble."

Children within class bubbles from Junior Infants - 2nd class are not required to physical distance. Children in 3rd - 6th classes will be divided into "Pods," (a small group) to minimise interactions between children.

Staff members will be maintaining a 2m physical distance - we also ask that this be respected between parents/guardians and teachers.

Please avoid gathering at school gates/set down area.

We have put in place staggered drop off and collection times, along with using additional access points for children, to ensure physical distancing as much as possible.

Respiratory Hygiene

It is important to follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or bent elbow when you cough or sneeze. Tissues are to be disposed of in the nearest bin and hands cleaned. Children should practice this at all times.

Cleaning

Chairs and desks in each classroom will be cleaned on a daily basis. Hand rails, door handles and other high touch points will be cleaned throughout the school daily, in addition to the daily cleaning of all toilets and surfaces.

Dealing with a Suspected Case of Covid-19

If a pupil displays symptoms of Covid 19 while at school the following are the procedures to be implemented:

- Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately.
- Mask will be provided for the person displaying symptoms.
- Pupil will be taken to the isolation area which will be located in Parent's Room. (Located beside P.E hall)
- Parents may enter staff car park to collect child from Parent's room. Parents to call doctor and self-isolate at home.
- Appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and the classroom will take place.
- HSE will inform staff/parents who have come into close contact with a diagnosed pupil.

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Brendan Naughton

Principal