



SCOIL ÍÓSAIF NAOFA

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Dear Parent / Guardian, Staff Member,

The BoM and School Staff are looking forward to welcoming all our pupils and parents / guardians back to school for the 2020/2021 school year on Thursday, 27th and Friday 28th August.

To ensure the safety of the children and staff we have decided to stagger our opening days- bringing in half the school on each day.

Senior Infants, 3rd, 5th & 6th only start on Thursday 27th.

Junior Infants, 1st, 2nd & 4th only start on Friday 28th.

All in on Monday 31st.

We are satisfied that we have control measures in place to ensure that this will be a safe re-opening. It will take some time for all of us to get used to the “new circumstances” as we become familiar with the new routines and procedures designed to keep everyone safe and to prevent the spread of the virus. There will, undoubtedly, be some unforeseen challenges and we will deal with these as they arise.

We would like to thank you for your cooperation in making preparations to date and look forward to working with you as we assist the children adapt to the necessary changes. We are also conscious of the fact that our pupils have not been in school since March and that they are looking forward to coming back to school to meet their friends again. We are aware that our new pupils are beginning a school year at a challenging time and have made plans to ensure that their arrival will be as free from stress as possible.

RE: Drop-off and Collection Routines

The BoM and the School Leadership Team have been working to ensure a safe return to school for all pupils and staff. We have now finalised our plans for drop-off and collection of the children every day.

St Joseph's GNS appreciates your support as we try to safely reopen the school building. If at all possible we request you not to come onto the school grounds or into the school building unless it is essential. We appreciate that bringing Junior and Senior infants to the yard is essential) but for the older pupils a drop off at the school gate is desirable. Working together we hope to be able to progress the reopening in as safe a manner as possible for all.

We would ask all parents to familiarise themselves with the following drop-off and collection routines for the safe delivery and collection of pupils from school. Please be patient as we endeavour to embed these necessary precautionary and protective practices at the beginning of the school year.

It is imperative that

- adults do not come within 2m of each other
- parents do not try to have meetings with members of staff in the playground at drop-off and collection times – meetings between parents and teachers can only take place by prior arrangement. (This may have to be more restrictive depending on guidance - it is quite possible that the recommendation will be for remote meetings/telephonic communications.)
- all parents adhere to the drop-off and collection plans as outlined below

Drop-off Plan (Please see Parent Plan for full details)

We are extending our arrival to school times. We ask families to arrive at school from 8.45 – 9.10. Doors will open at 8.45. Parents must remain at signs/ barriers and allow your child to come down the playground to the door on their own. Infants can be brought to the soft play area for the first day or two but parents must leave immediately. Staff will bring the child into the school. Parents are not to remain in the school yard.

Collection Plan

Junior Infants will finish at 12 o'clock until Friday, September 11th. They are to be collected from the side entrance in the front yard (Staff Carpark) Senior Infants will be collected at 1.45 from the back door. At the end of the school day, 6th class will be first to leave at approx 2.35. The rest of the classes will then leave in turn. 5th/6th, 5th, 4th, 1st, 2nd, 3rd. We ask parents to stand well back - at the barriers- making sure that they are social distancing. Pupils cannot stand around the door. Everyone must leave the yard as promptly as possible.

le meas,

Ms Goretti Whelan
Cathaoirleach, An Bórd Bainistíochta

Ms Yvonne Murphy
Príomhoide