



Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál
New Inn,
Cashel,
Co. Tipperary E25 VH05

Phone/Fax (052) 7462122

Return to School – Wednesday 26th August

Dear Parents,

First of all, a very warm welcome to all returning students and the new Junior Infants. I'm sure you all have been waiting patiently for communication regarding the safe opening of school. Re-opening the school safely will require the co-operation of all members of our School Community - BoM, School Leadership, Staff, Parents and Pupils. We will all be called on to play our part in ensuring that re-opening of the school is done in a safe manner which prevents the spread of the virus and allows the vital work of Teaching and Learning to proceed with as little disruption as possible.

We have been working on our plan for the safe reopening of the school. The following are new measures being put in place

- Physical preparation, signage, hand sanitiser stations
- Advice, procedures and training for the safe return to working in the school for all school staff and pupils
- General and specific advice on how all pupils, staff, parents and visitors will prevent the spread of the virus

Below is a list of safety precautions to note

Please read the following changes regarding opening times, break times, lining up in the yard, uniform, students stationary, lunches, and personal health.

- **Opening Times:** As per usual supervision of the school yard will commence at 9:20am until 9:30am. When children arrive at school they will be directed to a new area for lining up. Ms Kinane and Mrs Harrington students will find their cones outside the infant classrooms. Ms Bailey, Ms Bourke / Wallace and Mr Mc Loughlin's students will line up at designated areas on the basketball court

Unfortunately children will have to line up and stay in their line as soon as they arrive at school to minimise interaction with others.

These stations will be used for lining up at the end of each break.

New Junior infants will have a staggered start time for the first day. Parents will be informed shortly on this.

- **Break Times:** The Junior and Senior classes will have separate break times to limit interaction between staff and children. The new school day layout will be published to the website shortly. You will be notified about this.
- **Home Times:** Bus going children will have designated areas to line up while waiting for the bus at 3:10pm. Children will be assigned to these areas depending on which bus they travel on.

We would ask parents of all other children to be collected at 3:05pm to practise social distancing in the car park. Mrs Harrington's 1st class will exit the school at the gate nearest the After-School Club. All other children will exit the gate nearest the convent.

- **Personal Health:** While all children will be welcome back to school, we would remind parents that, where children are displaying colds, coughs or flu like symptoms, they should not be sent to school. Children who display such symptoms in school will be isolated and parents asked to collect them from the school.
- **Uniforms:** Outdoor PE days will be scheduled for Tuesday and Thursdays. Children will wear school tracksuit/half zip on those days.

School uniform will be worn Monday, Wednesday and Friday. This will hopefully assist with advice on laundry procedures/regime directed by the Department.
- **School Equipment:** Due to the new regulations children are not permitted to share any personal items in school. All children will be required to have their own school pencil case which will be left in school. We will be providing children with their own glue sticks, paint brush, scissors and other art materials during the year.

➤ **School Fees:** Change to fees for 2020/21

- Art / Craft	€15
- Photocopying / texting	€12
- Insurance	<u>€8</u>
<u>Total</u>	€35 (Due end of September)

There will be no fees for Dance / Music other activities as outside coaches/visitors will be kept to an absolute minimum

Please note IBAN numbers for online payments (Please write your child's name after payment)

School Fees (€35): IE87BOFI90593451108900

Book Rental (€55): IE49BOFI90597769236177

- **Parents calling to School:** Parent will be requested to ring school in advance if collecting a child for an appointment or for any other reason. If parents wish to meet with teachers, a prior appointment will have to be made. Any parent entering the building will have to
- **Wear a mask, sanitise and complete contact tracing form as per HSE guidelines.**

Our new COVID-19 Policy Statement will be live on the school website shortly. Our BoM will keep you informed as to the progress of our re-opening plans and provide you with the information required by you to play your part in safely re-opening the school.

We are really looking forward to welcoming our children back to school and will be doing all that we can to ensure that the return to school is a safe and enjoyable experience for the children. We will be in touch with you again before school re-opens on classroom layout, signage and other relevant information

The following websites provide further information on COVID-19 and on government advice and recommendations regarding the re-opening of schools: -

- <https://www.education.ie/en/covid-19/>
- <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>
- <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/a128d-back-to-school/?referrer=http://www.gov.ie/backtoschool/>

Le Meas

Tomas Mc Loughlin