

SCOIL BHRÍDE

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14th September, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A warm welcome back to all and a very special welcome to our new Junior Infants and parents. Also, welcome to those who have joined us from other schools.

SCOIL BHRÍDE COVID RESPONSE PLAN

May I take this opportunity to thank you all most sincerely for supporting and co-operating with our reopening plan. As you know we had Board and Staff meetings over the Summer to plan for our safe return and thankfully everything is going according to plan. The children have adapted to the new routines and procedures very well, it is heart warming to witness the hustle and bustle of school life once again! Please remember to keep your daughter at home if she is unwell. If she becomes unwell in school you will be contacted to come and collect her. It is extremely important that you inform the school if your contact details have changed over the Summer.

SCHOOL UNIFORM AND BOOKS

All the children look very smart in their school uniform. Thank you parents for your great work in preparing them for the new school year. The girls are reminded in school to try and keep their uniform clean and to respect their school books and belongings. Please remind your daughter of the same at home. The school uniform consists of white blouse, red tie, navy skirt/gymslip or formal navy trousers and red jumper/cardigan **and must be worn at all times. On P.E. days children wear a navy tracksuit bottoms with red, white or navy top. Runners must be worn during P.E. Class to enable children to fully participate.**

SCHOOL RULES

We ask for your co-operation in ensuring your daughter understands and complies with rules of the school. We remind everyone that school starts at 9.20 a.m. and finishes at 3 p.m. (2 pm. for Infants). The Board of Management does not accept responsibility for children on school premises before or after the official opening and closing times. Children are supervised on the yard from

9.10 a.m. in their designated area at the back of the school. A reminder that parents cannot come into the school grounds. If you need to speak to your class teacher please ring and make an appointment, thank you for understanding.

SCHOOL MAINTAINANCE

Our school caretaker has been hard at work over the Summer maintaining and improving the school grounds. I wish to thank Piotr most sincerely for all his hard work. Thanks also to Gerry Maguire (BOM) who organised and supervised works carried out over the Summer. We have constructed a boundary fence at the back of the school. In the coming months we will be building a concrete wall at the back of the shed, replacing the wooden fence. The BOM have also improved the lighting at the front of the school which will be very beneficial as the evenings become darker in the coming months. We will also be upgrading the heating system in the school.

A special word of thanks also to Viola (school cleaner). She has been working very hard over the Summer months ensuring that everywhere is fresh and clean for our return. Children and teachers desks and chairs are thoroughly sanitised daily, as are all surfaces. We have implemented all the extra cleaning and sanitisation procedures as set out in the DES guidelines.

ABSENTEEISM

Parents please inform the class teacher in writing if your daughter is absent from school. If any child is absent for more than 20 days within the school year, the school is obliged to notify the Education Welfare Office in Dublin. This is in keeping with the directives outlined under the Child Welfare Act.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. In the morning and on collecting your daughter from school please do not obstruct the flow of traffic at the front of the school. Be mindful of children entering/exiting the school grounds. Bus and car drivers are asked to drive around to the grey railings to collect children who have been told to **wait inside the grey railings. Parents please do not double park at the front of the school.**
2. **School meals programme:** Glanmore Foods have been chosen as the supplier for our complementary school lunches and snacks. The children are very much relishing the wide variety of foods available on the menu.
3. **REMINDER; Please make sure your daughter's hair is tied back during the school day. Also parents please routinely check your daughter's hair.**
4. **Wearing of jewellery is not allowed in school (hoop earrings, bracelets etc). due to Health and Safety concerns on the playground,**

during P.E., as well as the upset that can be caused when such items are misplaced.

ACTIVE FLAG

I am delighted to inform you that our Board of Management has sanctioned the go ahead to construct a walkway around the perimeter of the back of the school. This walkway will be a fantastic feature for our school, it will assist us in our work in the subject areas of Health, Wellness and general physical activity. Work on this walkway will commence in the coming weeks.

SEN

Your class teacher and Special Education teacher(Ms.Brereton) will be in contact with you shortly to discuss I.E.P. (Individual Educational Plan) for your daughter if she is attending Learning Support.

FINANCIAL

Book Rental, Art/Craft money is now overdue. Please bring €50 to your class teacher by Wednesday 16th September. Ms. Sheppard has worked very hard with our Book Rental Scheme so that the cost of books is greatly reduced. A huge thank you to those of you who have returned books borrowed during the lockdown. If you have any books belonging to the school at home please drop them in, we would be delighted to receive them.

HOME/SCHOOL LINKS

As you know children will not be getting homework for the remainder of the month. However, please encourage your daughter to read at home, practice tables, develop her oral language etc. Reading with your daughter is very important in helping with her learning. Maybe you could swap screen time for reading time – it would be very beneficial for your daughter's educational and emotional development. You are welcome to contact your class teacher or Ms. Brereton (Special Ed.) for some reading material suggestions.

Ms. Gina Reidy is our Home/School co-ordinator (HSCL). You are welcome to contact her (phone:086 0452437) or your class teacher at any stage during the year if you have any queries or concerns.

Finally, we are glad to be back working with the children in school. We are hopeful that the school year will be a happy and safe one for everybody.

Slán go fóill,

 (Principal)

M. Rohan