Scoil Ghormáin Naofa

Castletown, Gorey, Co. Wexford.

Chairperson BOM: School Principal:

Joe O’Shaughnessy Emer Russell

Update 19/08/20

Dear Parents,

A lot of work has been going on to prepare school for reopening. There will be sanitisers fixed to the wall of each classroom and at other points in the school. Towels have been replaced by paper towel dispensers. There is a one-way system in place in the corridor. There will be discrete lessons in class about hand washing practices and coughing/sneezing etiquette. There will be regular movement breaks during the day to allow the circulation of air through the classrooms. Windows will be open throughout the day to allow for a flow of air. I will post photos of classrooms for your reassurance when all items are fully fitted. Teachers and staff have received all updates from the government and will be undertaking the recently provided training webinars in the coming days. We will meet as a staff (socially distancing) next Wednesday to de-brief on plans for reopening. Classrooms have been decluttered and tables are set up sufficiently far apart.

We will be using a ‘Slow down to catch up’ approach with our students. By this, I mean that we will focus on settling them into happy and healthy practices in school before progressing with curricular subjects. Here is some advice from UNICEF with advice on how to prepare your child for the transition. <https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/supporting-your-childs-mental-health-during-covid-19-school-return>. The government is currently preparing guidelines for families to help with the return to school. They will be posted here <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/>

We are very lucky in the layout of our school. Each classroom has an external entrance door at the rear of the main building. This will be used for each classes entry and exit to school daily, including those in the parish hall building. The classrooms will be based thus:

* Jnr/snr Ms Hearne: Room 9 – formerly Ms. Hearne’s room
* Snr/1st Ms Byrne Room 10 – formerly Ms. Byrne’s room
* 2nd/ 3rd Ms. D’Arcy/Ms. McDevitt Room 11 – formerly Ms. D’Arcy/Ms. McDevitt’s room
* 4th/5th Mr. Breen Room 12 – formerly Mr. Breen’s room
* Ms. Ryan’s class Room 1 – formerly Ms. Morris’ room
* 6th Ms. Ní Shúilleabháin Parish hall – formerly Ms. Ní Shúilleabháin’s room

We have secured cleaning staff to undertake a daily cleaning schedule in line with government guidelines. Teachers have been provided with cleaning kits in the room and measures are in place in case of a suspected case of Covid.

I would urge those with children on the school bus to ensure that the practices are in place for safe travel.

If your child forgets their lunch, please ring the office on 0402 37596 and a drop off facility will be arranged.

Each morning our SNAs will greet children from the school gate/parish hall gate and children will be guided to their classrooms. ***Parents should not pass the gate.*** An exception for this will be made on first day for junior infants where children will arrive in pods and may socially distance on yard with their parents. Bus children only between 8.50 -9am. All other children 9-9.10. End of day, bus children 2.30, all other children leave at 2.40.

* Classrooms (bubbles) will be grouped into pods of 4 to 6. Children will work within these pods during the day and can mingle within their bubbles when outside at playtime. The playground will have markings for bubbles. Pods may be reviewed after mid term break in line with government advice.
* Lunchtimes will be staggered
* As per guidelines, children ***should not bring their own sanitiser to school***. We have lots on site in various points and can assure you that it has the correct percentage of alcohol.
* Pencil cases should be left in school
* Until further notice, books will not be brought home
* Toys/books should not be brought to school. Please remind your child that, while it is normally kind to share, currently we can’t do that.
* A reminder that book rental books should be returned next Monday 24th August between 9.30 and 12. We have revised the plan for this and request that you deposit them loosely in the tubs provided on yard. Please do not congregate when dropping off books. Uniforms will not be available for sale at this time. ***Workbooks should not be returned to school.***
* Uniforms will be on sale on Tuesday at school. Children will not be permitted to fit them and should not attend at this time. Please adhere to your allotted time which is as follows:

\*Junior infants 9am

\*Senior infants: 9.45

\* 1st/2nd 10.15

\* 3rd/4th: 10.45

\* 5th/6th 11.15

\*Items on sale will be tracksuits, tracksuit shorts, crests and water bottles.

All items in the previous document are still valid so please refresh that information for yourselves.

We are really looking forward to seeing our students very soon!

Best wishes,

Emer Russell