

*Scoil Mhuire na nGrást,  
Béal Guala,  
Co. Chorcaí.*



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*25/08/2021*

Dear Parent/Guardian & Staff Member

We hope that you and your families are enjoying the remaining few days of the summer holidays.

Renewed thanks to everyone for your combined endeavours in ensuring a very successful past school year (2020/2021), despite the many challenges. Everyone's co-operation and support with the various systems that have been in place, coupled with the prudent and sensible approaches taken by everyone at various times, helped ensure safety for all.

Looking ahead to School Year 2020/2021, the department's recent *COVID-19 Response Plan for Schools* shows that there is no significant change to the recommended and successful approach that has been adopted at Scoil Mhuire na nGrást over the past year. You may recall, these measures have all been guided by related advice received from the Department of Education & Skills which in turn is based on public health advice. In this regard, a refocusing on efforts in relation to minimising the risk of introduction of infection in our school and managing the risk of spread if introduced will, once again, help ensure a safe and sustainable return to school for everyone.

In order to achieve this, the full co-operation and support from every member of the school community (i.e. pupils, staff, parents/guardians and wider school community) is absolutely essential. Key to this is an obligation on us all to keep fully informed of wider and on-going developments and their practical implications for school life. It is also now timely, perhaps, for everyone to take some time over the next few days to reacquaint ourselves with the measures that are in place in the school.

To assist, the attached updated '*Response Plan for the re-opening of Scoil Mhuire na nGrást*' (v. 22 August 2021), clearly outlines for parents/guardians the practical details in relation to the daily school routine/schedule and outlines other important measures to keep everyone at school and in our wider community healthy and safe. The plan covers the areas outlined overpage (it is important that you retain this correspondence and the attachment for future referral and bring its details to the attention of child-carers/others who may be bringing/collecting your child from the school):

*/Over.....*

- Underlying Principles
- Aims
- Class Teachers & Rooms
- 'Entrance' & 'Exit' locations for the various different classes
- 'Arrival at School' & 'End of School Day' Schedule
- Collection of Children during the School Day
- 'Safe School Attendance' & Circumstances when Children Should Not Attend School
- Dealing with A Suspected Case of COVID-19
- Hygiene Considerations (*items to purchase are highlighted*)
- Personal Requisites/Equipment in the Classroom (*items to purchase are highlighted*)
- School Uniforms
- Shared Equipment
- Pupil Toilets
- Yards & Break-times
- Special Educational Needs
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Teacher Absence & Substitution
- Physical Education
- Homework
- 'Attention All Visitors' notification & Contact Tracing
- Hand Washing & Respiratory Etiquette Posters

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

- **A poster for parents/guardians** - [Advice for Parents - Back to School in September 2021](#)
- **Video advice for parents/guardians and students at different levels**
- <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/#returning-to-school>
- **Multilingual advice for parents/guardians**  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/0cf46-resources-and-materials-for-parentsguardians-and-for-students-on-returning-to-school-multi-lingual/>
- **Communications to parents/guardians regarding School Transport**  
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/64a88-school-transport/>
- <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/a128d-back-to-school/?referrer=http://www.gov.ie/backtoschool/>
- **Isolation quick guide - Adults and children from their 13th birthday** - <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/algorithms/Isolation%20quick%20guide%20Adults%20and%20children%20from%20their%2013th%20birthday.pdf>
- **Isolation quick guide for parents and guardians of children older than 3 months and up to 13 years of age** - <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/educationguidance/Isolation%20quick%20guide%20under%2013s.pdf>

The following links may also be of assistance:-

- <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>
- <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/>
- <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/77952-government-advice-on-international-travel/>
- <https://www.dfa.ie/travel/>

### **BOOK RENTAL SCHEME 2021/2022**

Just a reminder that *Book Rental Scheme 2021/2022* books will be distributed to pupils on our return to school next week, once payment for same has been received. In this regard, please note the following:

- Payment requests for BRS 2021/2022 will issue by e-payment to all school families on **Tuesday, 01 September 2021**  
*Note: - Annual Rental Charge (i.e. €10 – Junior Infant to Second Classes & €20 - 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Classes) & Book Rental Deposit (i.e. €10 - only applicable if a child is joining the scheme for the first time)*

Please be assured that, for its part, the school has taken the re-opening Scoil Mhuire na nGrást very seriously and has acted accordingly. We now ask that you fully inform yourself in regard to the details of this letter and the related attachment – and to bring any necessary contents to the attention of all relevant others – in order that everyone can return to school in a safe and sustainable manner.

We look forward to meeting everyone again on Monday and to another successful school year ahead!

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Cathaoirleach, An Bhóird Bainistíochta



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Príomhoide