

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE REOPENING OF ST. CONAIRE'S NS

February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

St. Conaire's NS will re-open next Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup> for Junior & Senior Infants and 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Classes. We look forward to seeing your children again. We hope this re-opening will be successful and that we can welcome the rest of the school back on March 15<sup>th</sup>. We thank you for your co-operation and support during the current lockdown.

In order to achieve this, we are asking for your continued support in ensuring that our school remains open. The Department of Education issued guidelines to schools this week and the requirements are as follows. All parents are asked to note:

- **School gates:** There is to be **NO CONGREGATION** of people outside the school entrances at the Cronan side and at the back gate. Please do not stop and gather at the Cronan entrance where the warden is on duty. This is a requirement of the Department of Education and school management. The simplest rule is **DROP & GO!**
- **Staggered collection times for Junior and Senior Infants:** *a separate note* will be sent to parents of our Junior and Senior Infants regarding new collection times which will come into effect on March 1<sup>st</sup> to ensure we are in line with Department of Education regulations on gatherings in and around the school. Regrettably, we are no longer able to have parents wait in the school yard.
- **Change of collection arrangements for Junior and Senior Infants:** To comply with new Department of Education requirements, Junior and Senior Infants will now be brought to the school gate by staff at a designated time. **See separate note for each class.**
- **Collection on time:** all pupils should be collected on time as staff will now be bringing children to the school gates and will be required to return to their other duties.
- **Face coverings:** adults are reminded to wear masks at all times in public when bringing children to and from school.
- **Contacting the school:** regrettably, there will be no face-to-face meetings between teachers and parents under current regulations. Contact must be made through email or telephone only.
- **Return to Education Declaration:** parents **must** sign a Return to Education Declaration form for **all** children. This will be sent out on Aladdin Connect.
- **Covid awareness:** parents are reminded to be alert for the symptoms of Covid-19 and to keep their children at home if they are feeling unwell. No child with any symptoms will be accepted in school.
- **Children displaying symptoms:** If your child displays Covid-19 symptoms in school they will be taken to the Covid-19 room and you will be contacted. Parents must then collect their children as soon as possible.
- **Ventilation:** We are required to follow government guidelines on ventilation in schools. Please ensure your child is dressed warmly. The classrooms will be warm, but we are required to ventilate the rooms well.
- **Raincoats/tracksuits:** All pupils will need to wear a coat to school as we will be prioritising regular outdoor breaks for the first two weeks. They may also wear their tracksuits and runners to school.
- The school has reviewed its Covid-19 Response Plan and this will be available on the school website [www.conaires.ie](http://www.conaires.ie)

**Return of schoolbooks:** Please send your child's books and pencils/pencil case back to his/her teacher in a plastic bag only. As per regulations, these will be quarantined for 72 hours. No schoolbags should be brought to school until further notification.

**Lunch boxes and drinks:** Your child will only need to bring their lunch boxes and drink to school with them. In keeping with safety practices, staff will not be able to give out a drink to anyone who doesn't have a drink with them.

**Handwashing before school:** Please go through the correct handwashing procedures with your child prior to their return to school. Remind your child to wash his/her hands before coming to school in the morning. All pupils must sanitise on entry to school. Staff will be ensuring handwashing/sanitising takes place throughout the day.

**Enhanced cleaning and safety arrangements:** The school has been deep cleaned twice in preparation for the return of staff and pupils. The Board of Management has also engaged a contract cleaner to support the work of our own staff. The school has adopted the revised HSPC and Department of Education guidelines in preparation for the return to school.

Finally, school can only continue with normal operations if everyone follows public health guidelines. If children and families mix outside school, the risk of acquiring Covid-19 infection increases hugely. Children should *not* be mixing in other houses or coming to school in someone else's car under any circumstance. We want this to be the last lockdown but everyone must work together to suppress the virus and keep our schools open.

Thank you for your co-operation with these new arrangements. These are being put in place to keep all pupils, staff and parents safe. We hope better times are not too far away but, in the meantime, we must all work together to keep the school open while at the same time keeping everyone safe.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Walsh

Principal