



27/08/2021

A thuismitheoir,

I hope you and your families have all had a restful and enjoyable summer and that your children are looking forward to returning to school. I was hopeful at the end of the 2020/21 school year that this year's return to school would be beginning on more positive note but unfortunately, following the Department of Education's latest guidance, this is not the case. Please read this letter carefully for detailed information on our return to school and how it will look for your child.

Protective bubbles

Children will remain in their protective class bubbles where possible to reduce interaction and the risk of cross infection.

Face masks

Children are not required to wear face masks in school, however any child travelling to or from school by bus **MUST** wear a face mask for the duration of the journey. As our school bus is now provided by the Education Authority, some children will be sharing a bus with St Columban's PS pupils.

Anyone who has **applied** for and is entitled to EA Transport will receive notification either today or tomorrow via email regarding your closest bus stop and pick up/drop off times. If you have not yet applied for Transport Assistance and live at least 2 miles from school or in Ballymartin, you can apply online here: <https://www.eani.org.uk/home-to-school-transport-new/transport-online-applications/primary-school-transport-applications>

Hand hygiene

Children will continue to wash their hands/ sanitize at regular intervals throughout the school day, when they arrive, before they eat and before they leave to go home. Hand sanitizer stations are placed at all entrances in the school and hand washing facilities are also available to children. I would ask that you continue to put emphasis on good hand hygiene at home and encourage your children to 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' when they cough or sneeze.

Staggered start and finish times

To reduce the risk of cross infection and interaction of class bubbles and to reduce congestion in the car park, we have decided to retain our staggered start and finish times. See below for details of

Gaelscoil na mBeann / Naíscoil na mBeann

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your child's times. Please note, as was the case last year, siblings are permitted to enter school together at their allocated time to allow parents to vacate the car park.

| Rang | Entrance | Start time | Pick up time |
|----------|---------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Rang 1 | Main gate | 8:30am | See induction info below |
| Rang 2/3 | Main gate | 8:25am | 1:30pm |
| Rang 4/5 | Main gate | 8:35am | 2:30pm |
| Rang 6/7 | Rang 6/7 gate | 8:40am | 2:35pm |

Induction for Rang 1 children will work as follows:

Tuesday 31st August 2021-Friday 3rd September 8.30am – 10.30am

Week beginning Monday 6th September 8.30am – 11.15

No school dinners provided this week for Rang1. Healthy snack required.

Week beginning Monday 13th September 8.30am – 12.15pm

School dinners available from this week onwards.

Week beginning Monday 20th September 8.30am – 1.30pm

NOTE- Please provide a healthy snack (fruit/veg, small sandwich/yoghurt) and a bottle of water on a daily basis.

School dinners

School dinners will be provided in the dinner hall on a staggered basis with class bubbles sitting separately. Dinners cost £2.60 per meal and all meals should be paid for using our cashless payment system Parent Pay. Any new parents will receive information on registering for Parent Pay in the first few days back to school.

Please note that parents whose child/children were in receipt of free school meals (FSM) during the 2020/21 school year also need to apply for these children (as well as any additional children) for the 2021/22 school year. Any meals taken before confirmation of entitlement to FSM will be subject to a charge of £2.60 per meal. You can apply for FSMs and the Education Authority's uniform grant at the link below:

<https://freeschoolmealsanduniforms.eani.org.uk>

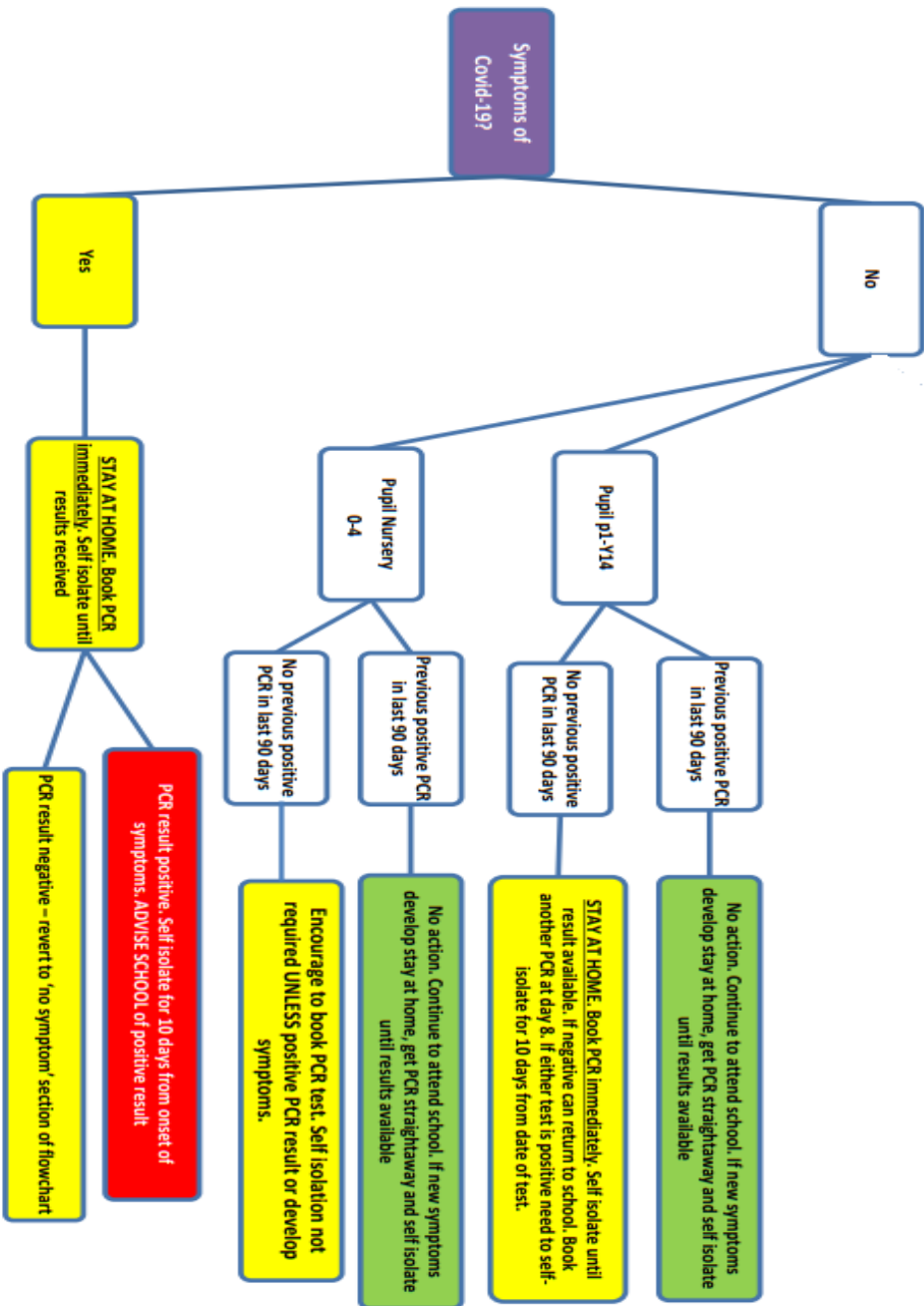
COVID guidance

With the prevalence of COVID-19 in the community remaining high, it is essential that you, as parents, are familiar with PHA guidance in relation to COVID-19 in a school setting. It is important that clear lines of communication are maintained between home and school. If you are in any doubt, please phone the school and we will advise you as best as possible. Please see the latest PHA guidance flowchart below for your information.

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Breakfast club and After Schools Clubs

Our Breakfast club and After Schools Clubs will recommence on Monday 6th September. Breakfast club will run from 8:00am- 8:30am at a cost of £1 per day. After schools clubs will run Monday-Thursday at a cost of £1 per day. The timetable for After Schools activities will be released next week.

Táimid uilig ag dúil go mór leis na páistí a fheiceáil ar ais ar scoil ar an tseachtain seo chugainn!
We are all looking forward to seeing the children back in school next week!

Is mise le meas

Mícheál Ó Brádaigh
Príomhoide
Gaelscoil na mBeann