25/06/20

A Thuismitheoirí,

As reported in the media, an Education Restart Programme has been launched by the Education Minister, Mr Peter Weir, to address the phased reopening of schools. As this is a very recent development, we are not in yet a position to fully finalise our arrangements for a phased reopening.

We are currently assessing numbers of pupils that can be safely accommodated in each classroom following the guidance and recommendations. At the moment we envisage that the return to school will involve a ‘protective bubble’ and a blended approach to education combining a mix of face-to-face teaching and remote learning. At this point in time, it appears that not all pupils will start the new term on a full-time basis and may only attend on a timetabled basis. I will provide more details as soon as possible on this but please read the guidance below which is not likely to change:

* Gaelscoil na mBeann will reopen on **Monday 24th August** for an **induction week** which will focus on the pastoral needs of our pupils, their health and wellbeing and the enhancement of a ‘reconnect’ between pupil and school, helping our pupils settle back into the new school day and the changes to their school environment. Specific details regarding dates and times will be provided in due course. **Not all pupils** will be attending school on this week.
* All parents will be asked to remain outside school buildings to reduce footfall and the potential spread of the virus.
* Pupils are asked to wear a fresh school uniform every day where possible.
* School bags or other items from home should not be brought into school. Packed lunches should be in disposable packaging.
* No guidance has yet been issued to schools with regard to transport or school meals. Details will follow.
* As staff, we will be reinforcing the good practice that you are undertaking at home, to educate your children in the necessary measures for minimising the spread of the virus, e.g. ‘Catch it, Bin It, Kill It’, thorough handwashing, maintaining social distance etc. we trust that this good practice will continue.
* It is your responsibility to access and follow school communications e.g. Website, school app etc. Please note that this is where any further information will be published.

It is vitally important to remember that we are in an ever-evolving situation and our best laid plans may need to be adjusted at short notice. The guidance will be reviewed throughout the summer months and we will try our best to plan for the safe return for all of our pupils as soon as possible. The new school term is going to pose a challenge for all of us. Please be assured that our priority is to get our children back into school for as long as we possibly can each week whilst adhering to PHA and DE guidance.

Upon our return to school, there will be some changes to staffing, see details below:

**Rang 1-** Múinteoir Ciara

**Rang 2/3-** Múinteoir Emma-Louise

**Rang 4/5-** Múinteoir Mícheál & Múinteoir Niamh

**Rang 6/7-** Múinteoir Claire

At this stage I would like to thank Múinteoir Rachel who has done sterling work with Rang 6/7 this year, and on behalf of all of the staff and pupils wish her the very best for the future. Go n-éirí an bóthar leat!

Please continue to check the school website and social media for further updates which will be provided as further guidance is published. In the meantime, please stay safe and thank you for all of your support throughout what has been a strange and challenging time.

Finally, I would like to extend our very best wishes to our Rang 7 pupils who are about to move on to the next chapter in their education. It has been a pleasure to watch you all grow and mature and I have no doubt that you will all continue to flourish in post-primary school and beyond. Go n-éirí go geal libh uilig!

Le meas,

A close up of a hanger

Description automatically generated

Mícheál Ó Brádaigh

Príomhoide

Gaelscoil na mBeann