

Scoil Cholmáin, An Geata Bán

Roll Number: 119921

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Ríomhphost: secretarywhitegatens@gmail.com

Updated Guidelines 2021-2022 School Year.

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We have prepared the following pack outlining Covid-19 procedures and routines when we return for the new school year. In support of the letter entitled **Re-opening of Whitegate NS, please see below more specific detail. We have outlined some of these measure , but will reiterate them here again.**

This pack is divided into 4 distinct sections:

1. Safe School Attendance
2. Physical Distancing
3. Drop Off and Collection
4. Uniforms and Material

1. Safe School Attendance

- If your child is displaying **cold, cough or flu like symptoms**, under no circumstances should they be sent to school. A child that display these symptoms in school will be isolated and parents telephoned to ask them to collect their child from the school.
- Children who have travelled from countries not on the Green List should not attend school during the 14-day self-isolation period.
- Teachers will promote proper hygiene practice such as hand washing, sneezing and coughing etiquette. Please emphasise this at home in advance of our return to school.

Further information on COVID-19 symptoms is available at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/40e9c-protecting-your-child-from-coronavirus/#what-to-do-if-your-child-has-symptoms-of-coronavirus>

2. Physical Distancing

Physical Distancing will be managed in two ways:

- **Increasing Separation.** This will be achieved by re-configuring the classrooms to maximise physical distancing. Each class will be referred to as a bubble and we will ensure that there is as little contact as possible between children in different bubbles. Within the bubbles, children will be organised into pods. A pod is a group of children (normally 6) who will sit together and who will stay in their pod while in the bubble i.e. the classroom.
- **Decreasing Interaction.** This will be managed by decreasing the potential for children from different bubbles (classrooms) to interact. There will be marked routes for various bubbles to enter and exit the school and to access their classrooms. Bubbles will have

different mid-morning and lunch-time access to the playground. We will make these routines enjoyable activities for the children, emphasising safety at all times.

3. Drop-off and Collection

It is imperative that:

- Parents do not come within 2m of each other.
- Parents do not congregate at the school gate.
- Parents do not attempt to hold or organise meetings with staff at drop-off and collection times. Meetings between parents and teachers can only take place by prior arrangement. (This may have to be more restrictive depending on guidance - it is quite possible that the recommendation will be for remote meetings/telephone communication only)
- As always, messages for teachers can be sent via email to secretarywhitegatens@gmail.com or by phoning the school office.
- We fully adhere to the drop-off and collection plans as outlined below.

Drop-off Plan

- Our drop off times have been extended and will run from **8:40 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**
- Children should be dropped at the school gate. **No adults, other than staff members, should enter the building or grounds (allowances for new infants on first day, this has been arranged privately with our Junior Infant parents).**
- Children will go straight to their classroom.
- Staff members will be on duty to supervise children walking to classrooms.
- We ask for co-operation with these times as it will mean that the numbers congregating on school grounds at any one time will be minimised.

Collection Plan

- Parents may wait outside the gate to collect their children at the following times (minimum of 2 metres between families).

12:00 - Junior Infants collection time from the **31st of August 2021 to 10th September 2021** inclusive

1:40- Junior Infants from 13th of September 2021 and Senior Infants from the 31st of August 2021.

The children will be dispersed at the following times:

2:30- 1st Class are walked to gate in class groupings and will line up awaiting collection.

2:35- 2nd/3rd / 4th are walked to gate in class groupings and will line up in three separate groups

2:40-5th and 6th are walked to gate in class groupings and will line up in 2 separate groups
Any children that are remaining from each class will be minded by their class teacher in a separate line, so as to minimise interaction between teachers and children from different classrooms.

We are aware that parents may be collecting from different classes, but we have kept the time intervals short enough so that there won't be a long delay between collections.

We will continually review these procedures and if we feel adjustments and revisions need to be made as we progress, we will communicate these to you.

Collection of Children during the school day:

If a child has to be collected during the course of the school day, the following arrangements will apply:

- If possible the school should be notified via note/ Aladdin/email in advance of the collection- at least the day before.
- When the adult arrives at the school, they should phone the office to alert that they have arrived. **The office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday.** If you are collecting Tuesday/ Thursday, knock on the Junior classroom window and wait outside.
- The child will be brought from their class to the adult by a member of staff.
- The adult who is collecting will be asked to sign the child out.
- No adult should enter the school building, unless invited to do so.

4. Uniform and Material

- **Uniforms** – It is recommended that we kindly request that pupils wear a fresh set of clothes daily. Pupils can alternate between P.E. tracksuit/ uniform. In the event of both being unavailable the children can wear their own clothes.
- **Pencil Cases** - In so far as possible, it is requested that children from 1st to 6th Class will bring their own pens, pencils, colours, rubbers, etc., to school in a wipe clean pencil case to avoid the sharing of equipment. We ask that this pencil case be left in school and the children have another at home.
- **Please label all school items and Uniform clearly.**
- For children in Junior and Senior Infants, the school will provide a pouch or container which will hold each child's pencils, crayons, etc. We will label for Junior and Senior Infants only.
- **Book boxes** - To reduce handling of books we kindly ask that each child from 2nd-6th brings a 20-25 litre box to store their items, this will be kept under their table.

Our aim is to re-open the school in an orderly safe manner, while reassuring the children and making them feel comfortable, safe and relaxed with their friends in the new school environment. This will be achieved by all of us working towards this common goal.

Kind Regards,

Denis Healy
Chairperson BOM

Catherine Terry
Principal

Laura Hyde
Deputy Principal