



# SCOIL BHRÍDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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11<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We hope that you are all keeping safe and well. Following the release of 'Reopening Our Schools – The Roadmap for the Full Return to School' by the Department of Education & Skills, our school staff have been working very hard to ensure that Scoil Bhríde will be a safe place for the return of all of the students, parents and staff.

In following these guidelines, new rules and routines are required to help keep everyone safe. We will support parents and pupils to learn these new rules and routines.

This letter includes information for the planned re-opening of Scoil Bhríde in line with the COVID-19 Response Plan for Safe Re-opening of Primary Schools and the Phase 4 Roadmap for Re-opening Society and Business.

### **Phased Re-opening:**

A phased re-opening of Scoil Bhríde will take place to help ensure the safe arrival and exit of all children in line with the guidelines.

Parents are encouraged to walk with and/or cycle with their child to school where possible, as this will limit congestion in the morning and afternoon.

The details for the phased re-opening are as follows:

- In order to comply with the guidelines, we are unable to provide morning supervision before 8.50 a.m. We must ensure that large crowds do not gather outside the school building and that pupils enter the school in a safe manner. Therefore, **pupils cannot be dropped to school prior to 8.50 a.m.**
- Instead, there will be two drop-off time slots with designated class levels arriving during a specific time slot.
- Children are to be dropped off at their designated times as per class level outlined below.
- Parents with children in different drop-off categories can use the earlier time slot to drop off all of their children at the same time.
- This measure will aid in the prevention of large queues of pupils gathering outside the school building.

The drop-off time slots are as follows:

<b>8.50 – 9.05:</b>	Junior Infants (following the induction period), 1 <sup>st</sup> class, 3 <sup>rd</sup> class, 5 <sup>th</sup> class & Sonas pupils
<b>9.05 – 9.20:</b>	Senior Infants, 2 <sup>nd</sup> class, 4 <sup>th</sup> class & 6 <sup>th</sup> class

The phased re-opening plan of Spraioi classes (mainstream) and Sonas classes (special classes) is as follows:

<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<p><b>Spraioi:</b> Junior Infant pupils only – Parents will receive further information regarding specific time slots per child to meet their teacher.</p> <p><b>Sonas:</b> All pupils remain at home due to additional staff training.</p>
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	<p><b>Spraioi:</b> Junior Infants (as per induction timetable), 1<sup>st</sup> Class, 3<sup>rd</sup> Class &amp; 5<sup>th</sup> Class.</p> <p><b>Sonas:</b> New Sonas pupils only (all other Sonas pupils remain at home).</p>
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	<p><b>Spraioi:</b> Junior Infants (as per induction timetable), Senior Infants, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, 4<sup>th</sup> Class &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Class.</p> <p>*All other Spraioi class levels remain at home.</p> <p><b>Sonas:</b> New Sonas pupils (as per induction timetable), and all other Sonas pupils return.</p>
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<p><b>All Sonas and Spraioi Class Levels</b></p> <p>*Junior Infant pupils and new Sonas pupils will continue to follow their induction timetables for the first weeks of school, as outlined in your induction packs.</p>

We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding in relation to this phased return to school for our pupils, which will assist our efforts to minimise the risk related to Covid-19.

Please note that the plan for re-opening Scoil Bhríde may be subject to change due to updated Government guidelines and/or the prolonging of current county restrictions due to Covid-19.

### **Entrance and Exit Points:**

There are now four new access points to and from the school for the safe arrival and exit of pupils each day.

These access points will be clearly labelled with coloured arrows, and the use of these will be supported with verbal directions from staff members.

**Junior Infants and Senior Infants (Green route)** – enter the school via the main school entrance. Pick up at home time will be on the basketball courts.

**1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (Orange route)** - enter and exit the school via the door at the basketball courts.

**3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Class (Blue route)** – enter and exit the school via the side door (where they previously entered in the morning).

**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class (Red route)** – enter and exit the school via the emergency exit near car park 2.

**Sonas Classes (Yellow route)** – enter via the main door into the Sonas corridor, in car park 2.

**Finish times:** School finish times have also been staggered to allow the safe exit of all pupils from the school.

<b>Junior Infants:</b>	1.20 p.m. (Following the completion of the induction timetable).
<b>Senior Infants:</b>	1.30 p.m.
<b>Junior Day Sonas Pupils:</b>	1.30 p.m.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Class:</b>	2.05 p.m.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Class:</b>	2.10 p.m.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Class:</b>	2.15 p.m.
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Class:</b>	2.20 p.m.
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Class:</b>	2.25 p.m.
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Class:</b>	2.30 p.m.
<b>Senior Day Sonas Pupils</b>	2.30 p.m.

**Please note:**

- All adults collecting students are required to maintain their 2 metre distance as per Government guidelines.
- To limit class interruptions, parents may only collect pupils at the times listed above.
- Pupils who use bus transport to and from school will enter school at 8.50 a.m. and depart school at 1.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m.

**School Uniforms:**

As the most up-to-date Government guidelines indicate that there are no public health concerns with the wearing of school uniforms, Scoil Bhríde's school uniform policy will continue to apply.

**Covid-19 Precautions:**

If you or your child have any common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), your child should remain at home and should not attend school.

If you or your child are a close contact of a confirmed case of coronavirus, your child should remain at home and should not attend school.

If you or your child have any symptoms of coronavirus, you should self-isolate and phone your GP straight away to get a coronavirus test. It can take up to 14 days for symptoms to show. They can be similar to symptoms of cold and flu. Getting an early diagnosis from your GP means you can get the help you need and take steps to avoid spreading the virus, if you have it.

The common symptoms of coronavirus include:

- a fever (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above)
- a cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry
- shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If a child presents with any symptoms of coronavirus while in school, he/she will be brought to an isolation room by a staff member and parents will be called to collect their child. Further information regarding this procedure will be provided to parents at a later date.

### **Children in the Very High Risk Category:**

Included is the list of people in the very high risk category. If your child falls within this category it is important to contact the school to alert us of this. Parents can share this information with the school by emailing [info@scoilbhrideps.com](mailto:info@scoilbhrideps.com). If the school has already contacted you in relation to this, there is no need to contact us again.

The list of people in very high risk groups include people who:

- have had an organ transplant
- are undergoing active chemotherapy for cancer
- are having radical radiotherapy for lung cancer
- have cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
- are having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
- are having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
- have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
- have severe respiratory conditions including cystic fibrosis, severe asthma, pulmonary fibrosis, lung fibrosis, interstitial lung disease and severe COPD
- have a condition that means they have a very high risk of getting infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell)
- are taking medicine that makes you much more likely to get infections (such as high doses of steroids or immunosuppression therapies)
- have a serious heart condition

### **Returning to School after Travelling Abroad:**

COVID-19 Travel Advice given in the current domestic and international situation states that the safest thing to do is not to travel abroad. If parents or their children have travelled into Ireland from a location that is **not** on the COVID-19 Green List, within 14 days prior to the return to school, you are **not** to come to school. You should follow the ‘Travelling to Ireland from a location that is not on the COVID-19 green list guidelines’.

## **Return to School for Pupils:**

When our school re-opens there will be changes for everyone. Students will be changing classes, and some may be changing teachers. There will be new school rules and routines to learn to keep everyone safe. A lot of time has gone into planning for the return to school to help to ensure that staff, students and parents feel welcome, safe and secure.

Our school is opening up and staff are really looking forward to welcoming students back and helping them re-engage with learning in school. We understand that some students will require additional support to help them reconnect with their school community and re-engage with learning.

Most students will be looking forward to school and meeting up with friends, teachers and other school staff. Many will feel excited, relieved and happy. Some may feel a little anxious and worried about returning to school. This is to be expected and is a normal response at a time of transition and change. Most students will settle in over time, as they re-connect with friends and get used to the new school safety routines.

Our school staff know that wellbeing is important and needed for learning to happen. We are prioritising the things that we know will promote wellbeing at this time. We also know that parents have made great efforts to support their child's continued education when schools were closed and that parents have done their best. As per the Department of Education's guidelines, the focus on our return to school will primarily be in the curricular areas of English, Gaeilge, mathematics, P.E. and S.P.H.E. We would like to reassure you that teachers will focus on each child's individual level on their return to school.

Getting back to a school routine, getting enough sleep, eating healthily, taking physical exercise, taking some time to be creative and reconnecting with friends will help everyone to settle back in to school.

We look forward to seeing everyone soon. More detailed information on how the school will operate will be issued before our school re-opens.

Is muidne le meas,

*Caoimhín Ó Dufaigh*

Caoimhín Ó Dufaigh – Príomh Oide

*Nichola Hogan*

Nichola Hogan (Chairperson BOM)