



Plan for Reopening Gaelscoil Chluain Dolcáin 27.8.2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope that you and your family are keeping well and have enjoyed the summer holidays.

The Department of Education has released a 'Roadmap to Reopening Schools' which is published on our school website along with a letter from Education Minister Foley. Under these new guidelines, how Gaelscoil Chluain Dolcáin operates will change in order to follow best practice and guidance.

The school has a responsibility to make effort to ensure the health, safety and well-being of the members of our school community. Assuming it is in keeping with public health advice and guidelines issued by the Department of Education and Skills, it is preferable for all children to return to school.

It is not possible to eliminate the risk of infection. However, with the co-operation of all, it is possible to minimise the risk of the virus being introduced to our school and the consequent risk of its spread. Co-operation and goodwill of all will be required to ensure the success of the implementation of this plan.

❖ Implementation

The school will be divided into two zones, the Blue and Green zone. The start time for each class will be based on the zone they are in. Children will operate in a 'Bubble' system. They will remain with their class and not mix with other classes at any time. Break times will be staggered and each class will have a designated area for play. Hand sanitiser will be available in each classroom (gel, liquid and soap). It is a good idea for your child to have their own hand sanitizer too so they are free to re-sanitize when they choose to do so). Children will remain in their class and not move to other areas of the school unless directed by their class teacher. Parents **will not** be permitted to enter the grounds in the morning, with the exception of Junior Infants. At home time, **one parent/guardian** will be permitted on the grounds to pick up their children at the time stated for that zone.

❖ The following are adaptations required:

Home: It is important that you talk to your child about the importance of social distancing and hygiene. We will also talk to them about our expectations regarding Covid 19 and hygiene. There will be posters reminding them of how to keep themselves and others safe. Please practice a good handwashing routine at home so the children may do this independently at school. Please discuss with your children about the new bubble system and explain they may not mix with their friends from other classes at any time during school hours.

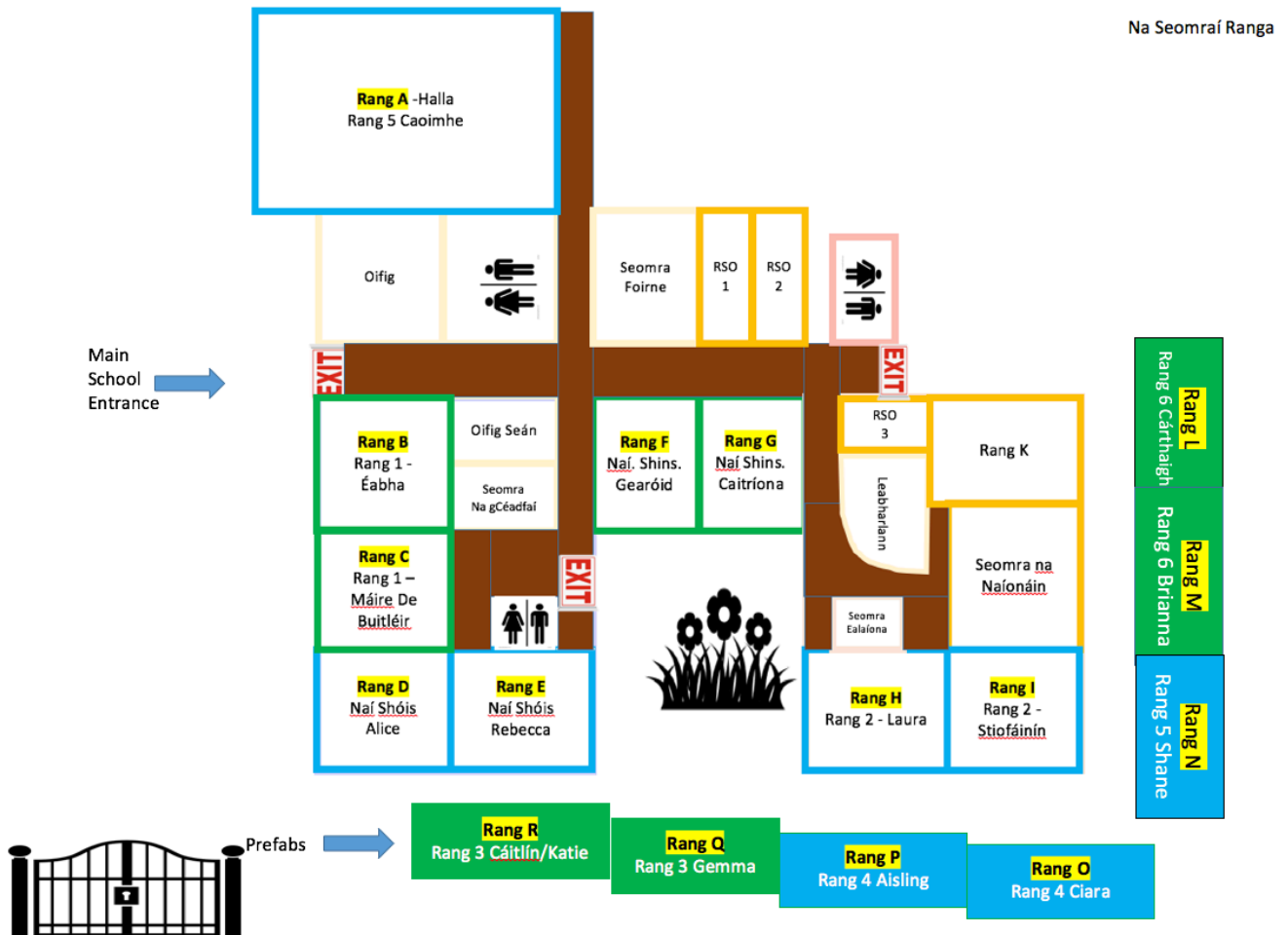
Schoolbag: Your child will require two pencil cases - One that they take to school on their first day and leave on their desk and a second that they use at home for homework. Junior and Senior Infants are not required to do this. They are not to take unnecessary equipment to school. They only need their lunch box and drink (no toys etc). They may also take their own personal hand sanitizer. Please put their names on their belongings.

❖ **The Two School Zones:**

The whole school is divided into two coloured zones. These zones will begin and finish their school days at staggered times and so too will their break times. Please ensure you are familiar with your child’s zone colour. It is important that parents only send their children onto the school site at the time written (or up to 5 minutes before this time)

The classes are divided as follows

Zón Glas	Zón Gorm
Naíonáin Shins	Naíonáin Shóis
Rang 1	Rang 2
Rang 3	Rang 4
Rang 6	Rang 5



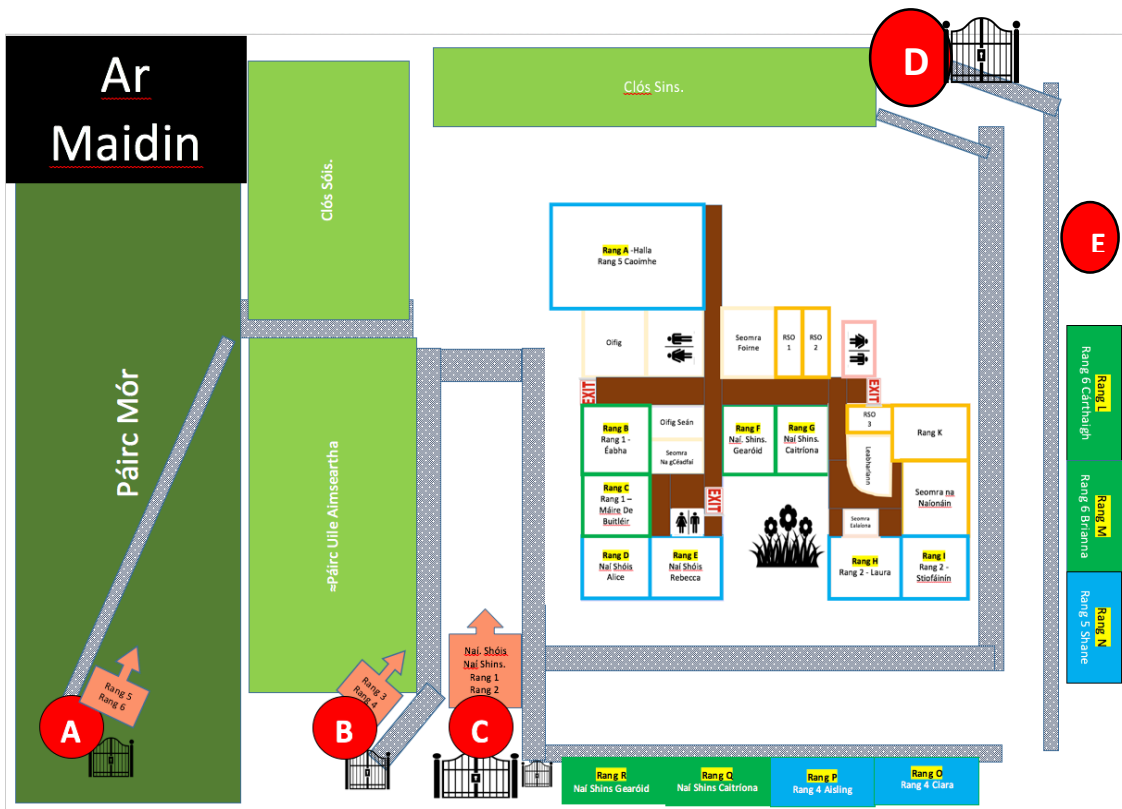
School start times will be as follows

8:40	Zón Glas
8:55	Zón Gorm

Please Note: Junior Infants (in the Blue Zone) will begin school at 9:15 for the month of September to help with the settling in period.

❖ **Entering school in the morning:**

The school gates will open at 8:35am for children in the Green Zone to enter. Pupils in the blue zone will not be permitted on site until 8:50 at the earliest. Parents will not be permitted on the school site in the morning with the exception of Junior Infants who will enter at 9:15 with one parent/guardian.



There will be three gates open to facilitate children walking onto the school site. Each child will walk through a designated gate as marked on the map below Gate A, Gate B, Gate C. The two back gates at the back of the school will also be open for children to use but these are additional to the designated gates. The gates will be signposted and a video explaining this will be sent to you in advance of the school reopening to ease confusion.

- Gate A:** Rang 5 & 6
- Gate B:** Rang 3 & 4
- Gate C:** Naíonáin Shóisearacha (Junior Infants)
Naíonáin Shinsearacha (Senior Infants)
Rang 1 & 2

In order to avoid traffic / pedestrian congestion for students and parents, we ask that children arrive at staggered times, depending on which zone their class is in. This will hopefully ease some of the pressure on the parking and congestion in the area in the morning. Children from Senior Infants to 6th class will enter the school grounds on their own, parents are asked not to accompany their children past the school gate. There will be volunteers from the parents committee, as well as school staff on the grounds to guide the children to the correct areas. The children should walk directly into their classroom without stopping en route. There will be a teacher present to supervise the children from. There will be a teacher present to supervise the children at the times written above. It is important children do not enter before these times as they will be unsupervised. Each class will be sent a short video clip explaining their entry and exit from the school under the new system.

The teachers of children Senior Infants and first class, along with the parents group helping with the implementation of the system will be waiting outside the school to direct children to their classroom in the main school building but it would help if you could show them the video clip of their walk in and their classroom before the first day of school.

Children should come to school on time as far as possible to assist with ensuring that there are not large groups gathering. Entering / exiting flow will be clearly marked on the ground at the entrance to the school (to allow for ease of movement through the gate).

A social distance of at least 2 metres between each person in the line is expected.

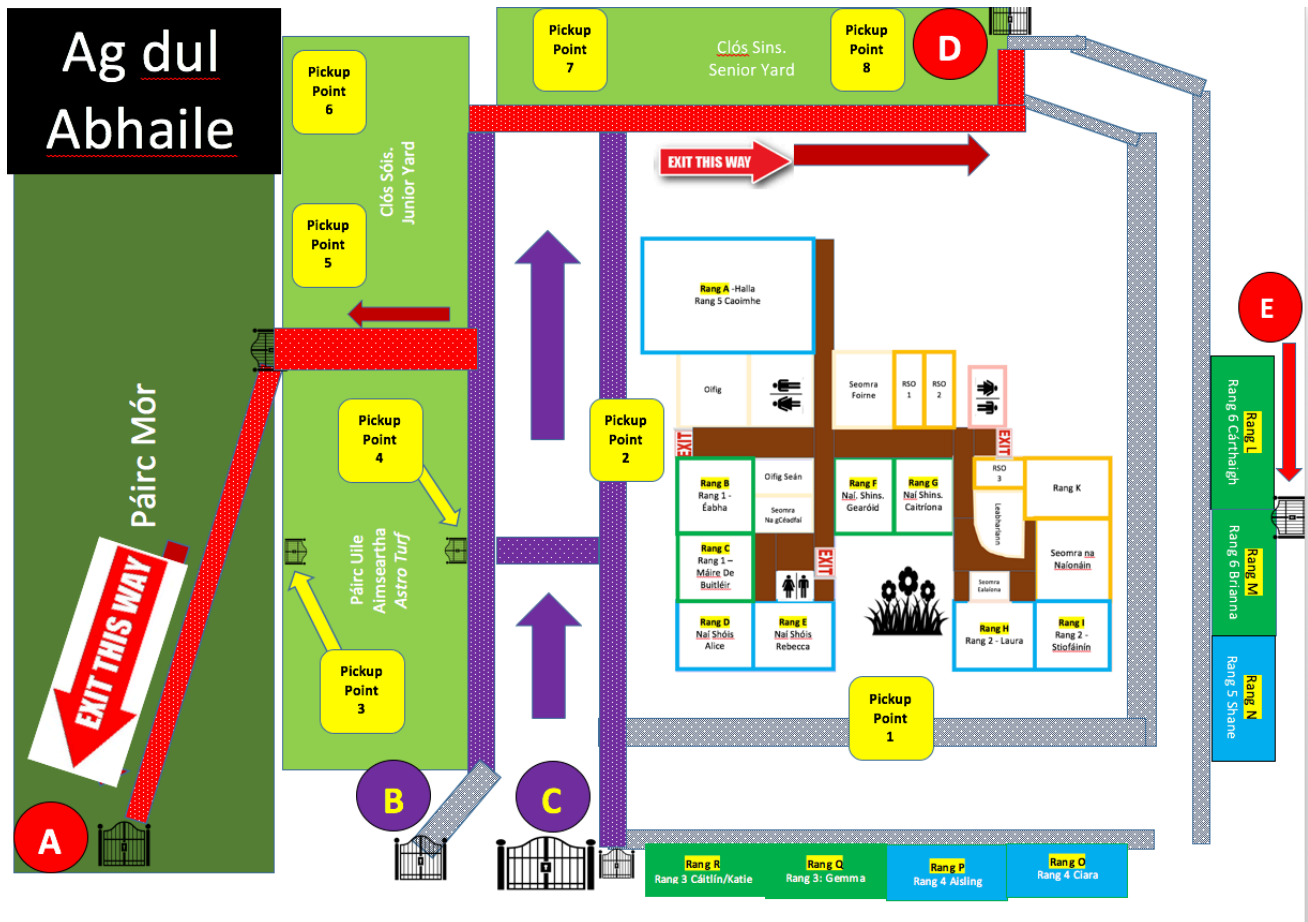
Parents / Guardians will NOT be permitted to enter the school building.

❖ **Congregating:**

I ask that parents leave the children at the school gates and not to congregate after drop-off to ensure traffic flow.

❖ **Collection from school: The One Way System**

A one way system will be used for collection of children after school. Parents are allowed to come onto the school grounds through gates B and C at the corresponding zone pick-up times. Please do not arrive too early to pick up your child as this may affect a different zone and cause congestion. Exit is through gates A, D and E marked in red.



Designated Pick-up Points

There will be allocated pickup points throughout the school grounds, for each class. The pick-up points are as follows:

Pick up Point	Green Zone	Blue Zone
1	Naíonáin Shinsearacha - Gearóid @ 1.20pm	Naíonáin Shóisearacha - Rebecca
2	Naíonáin Shinsearacha - Caitriona @ 1.20pm	Naíonáin Shóisearacha - Alice
3	Rang 3 – Cáitlín/Katie @ 2.20pm	Rang 4 - Aisling @ 2:35pm
4	Rang 3 – Gemma @ 2.20pm	Rang 4 - Ciara @ 2:35pm
5	Rang 1- Máire De Buitléir @ 2.20pm	Rang 2 - Laura @ 2.35pm
6	Rang 1- Éabha @ 2.20pm	Rang 2 - Stiofáinín @ 2.35pm
7	Rang 6 – Cárthaigh @ 2.20pm	Rang 5 Caoimhe @ 2.35pm
8	Rang 6 – Brianna @ 2.20pm	Rang 5 Shane @ 2.35pm

There will be clear signs to show which class is gathering for collection at each point. Parents will enter the one way system, collect the child and exit through the gate that has been allocated for that zone. This information will be displayed on a map of the school grounds, and in video format. Parents will be asked to form a queue at the pick-zones and this queue will be marked with a traffic cone. This forms an orderly system in which the teacher releases the child who's parent is next in the queue.

**Any child who is not collected must return to their class (where their teacher can ring the parent/guardian – please discuss this with your child).*

After School Activities:

There shall be no after school activities during Term 1. When we have an up-date we will contact you.

Communication: The best way to communicate with the school is via email or telephone. We will be sending a permission form to gather the school community's e-mail addresses and this will be how we will send important documents and communications. You can also ring the office or write a note to the school. Staff will not be facilitating face to face meetings. If you wish to communicate with a teacher/member of staff this may be conducted via telephone/ note.

If an emergency situation arises that you must attend the school, you must hand sanitise, wear a mask and fill in the 'Contact Tracing Log' which will be at the entrance to the school. Parents will only be permitted into the building with a previously scheduled appointment, in these emergency circumstances.

School Uniform

Your class teacher will direct you on what days to wear tracksuit or uniform in the first week back.

Best Practice

We endeavour to follow the Department guidelines to ensure every effort has been made to keep children, staff, parents safe during the pandemic. We must work together during this time and adapt to the changes.

Dealing with a suspected case of Covid 19

Pupils should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of Covid 19. If a pupil displays symptoms of Covid 19 while in the building, the following procedures will be implemented:

Parents / Guardians will be contacted immediately.

The child will be accompanied to the designated isolation area via the isolation route by a member of staff.

The staff member will remain at least 2 metres away from the symptomatic child and will also make sure that others maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from the symptomatic child at all times

A mask will be provided for the child presenting with symptoms. He / she should wear the mask if in a common area with other people or while exiting the premises.

An assessment will be made as to whether the child who is displaying symptoms can immediately be brought home by parents/guardians and call their doctor and continue self-isolation at home

The school will facilitate the child presenting with symptoms to remain in isolation, if they cannot immediately go home, and will assist them by calling their GP.

The child presenting with symptoms should be advised to cover their mouth and nose with the disposable tissue provided when they cough or sneeze and to put the tissue in the waste bag provided

If the child is well enough to go home, the school will arrange for them to be transported home by a family member, as soon as possible, and advise them to inform their GP by phone of their symptoms. Public transport of any kind should not be used.

If they are too unwell to go home or advice is required, the school will contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick child is a Covid 19 suspect.

Arrangements will be made for appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and work areas involved.

The HSE will inform any staff/parents/guardians who have come into close contact with a diagnosed case via the contact tracing process. The HSE will contact all relevant persons where a diagnosis of COVID-19 is made. The instructions of the HSE should be followed.

Children who should not attend school

If your child is in one of the following categories, they should not attend school –

- Children who have been diagnosed with Covid-19
- Children who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19
- Children who have a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
- Children who have been in contact with a person who has a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
- Children with underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school
- Children who have returned home after travelling abroad and must self-isolate for a period of 14 days
- Children who are generally unwell

Symptoms of Covid-19

As listed on the HSE's website (<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/symptoms.html>), 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

Supporting the Learning of Children who cannot attend school

If a child is not able to attend school for an extended period of time, appropriate resources and suggested activities will be made available to support the child's learning at home. These will be shared with parents either via email or the school's website.

Homework

There will be no homework given for the month of September to help with easing everyone back into school. We are doing this as we are placing a strong focus on the wellbeing of both staff and pupils and feel that we should focus on getting everyone to school safely while keeping everything as simple as possible.

Impact of a Suspected or Confirmed Case of Covid-19 in a Class

If the school is notified that a person in your child's class has a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19

- The parents of all children in the class will be notified
- Public health advice will be sought and followed

Shared Equipment

By necessity, some classroom equipment needs to be shared including tablets, laptops and the equipment used for structured activities and play in Infant classrooms. Cleaning of such shared equipment with wipes or other cleaning products will take place at regular intervals to minimise the risk of the spread of infection.

Yards

Yards will be supervised by class teachers, learning support teachers and SNA's working within the assigned zone colour. All children will be afforded the opportunity for handwashing after each break time. Two/three classes at a time (different time slots) will use the yard which will be split so that bubbles do not mix.

Learning Support

In keeping with our Special Education policy, learning support will be provided by a blended approach of in-class support and withdrawal. The provision of support will be organised to ensure our support teachers will work within the confines of a bubble. Where a support teacher is working alongside a class teacher in a classroom, both teachers must be mindful of maintaining social distance from one another.

Teacher Absence and Substitution


In the event that teacher is unable to attend school, every effort will be made to secure a substitute teacher for the class. If a substitute teacher is not available, it is not appropriate for the class to be divided into groups and accommodated in other classes. In such circumstances, it may not be possible for the class to attend on that day. If that is the case, as much notice as possible will be given to parents.

PE

PE will take place outdoors and use of equipment will be confined to the sets that have been distributed to class groupings.

Junior Infants

- Junior infant classes will begin at 9:15 from 27th August until the 2nd October.
- One parent/guardian will be allowed on the school site from 9:10 onwards to drop their child to the door. No parent is permitted inside the school building.
- Junior Infants will finish school at the following times for the month of September.



Am Tosnaithe do Naíonáin Shóisearacha
Lúnasa & Meán Fomhair 2020

Dé Luain Monday	Dé Máirt Tuesday	Dé Céadaoin Wednesday	Deardaoin Thursday	Dé hAoine Friday
			27/08 9.15 - 11.30	28/08 9.15 - 11.30
31/8 9.15 - 12.00	1/9 9.15 - 12.00	2/9 9.15 - 12.00	3/9 9.15 - 12.00	4/9 9.15 - 12.00
7/9 9.15 - 12.30	8/9 9.15 - 12.30	9/9 9.15 - 12.30	10/9 9.15 - 12.30	11/9 9.15 - 12.30
14/9 9.15 - 1.35	15/9 9.15 - 1.35	16/9 9.15 - 1.35	17/9 9.15 - 1.35	18/9 9.15 - 1.35
21/9 9.15 - 1.35	22/9 9.15 - 1.35	23/9 9.15 - 1.35	24/9 9.15 - 1.35	25/9 9.15 - 1.35
28/9 9.15 - 1.35	29/9 9.15 - 1.35	30/9 9.15 - 1.35	01/10 9.15 - 1.35	02/10 9.15 - 1.35

Daily Timetable for Classes in the Green Zone

Am Chláracha do na Ranganna sa Zón Glas

a) Na Naíonáin Shinsearacha (Senior Infants)

8.40	Am Tosnú / Start Time
8:40 - 10:30	Formal Teaching Instruction Time
10:30 - 10.40	Am Sosa / Break Time
10:40 - 11:40	Formal Teaching Instruction Time
11:40 – 11:55	<i>Story-time & Ag ithe sa rang/ Eating Lunch</i>
11:55 – 12:25	Sa chlós / In the Yard
12:25 – 1:20	Formal Teaching Instruction Time
1.20	Am Dul Abhaile

b) Rang 1, 3, 6

8.40	Am Tosnú/ Start time
8:40 - 11:40	Formal Teaching Instruction Time
10:30 - 10.40	Am Sosa/ Break time
10:40 - 11:40	Formal Teaching Instruction Time
11:40 – 11:55	<i>Obair Bhaile/ D.E.A.R. Ag ithe sa rang – Eating Lunch</i>
11:55 – 12:25	Sa chlós / In the Yard
12:25 – 2.20	Formal Teaching Instruction Time
2.20	Am Dul Abhaile

Daily Timetable for Classes in the Blue Zone Am Chláracha do na Ranganna sa Zón Gorm

a) Naíonáin Shóisearacha (Junior Infants)

8.55	Am Tosnú
10:50 - 11:00	Am Sosa
12:15 – 12:30	Obair Bhaile/ D.E.A.R. Ag ithe sa rang
12:30– 1:00	Sa chlós
1.35	Am Dul Abhaile

b) Rang 2, 4, 5

8.55	Am Tosnú
10:50 - 11:00	Am Sosa
12:15 – 12:30	Obair Bhaile/ D.E.A.R. Ag ithe sa rang
12:30– 1:00	Sa chlós
2.35	Am Dul Abhaile

Staff have worked extremely hard to prepare the building and classrooms for your child's safe return. We ask that you continue to support us in keeping everyone safe.

Sincerely,

Seán Mac Cárthaigh & Caitriona Ní Choighligh

Note: This plan is subject to change and review. We appreciate your patience and understanding in this matter.