



Scoil Mhuire gan Smál, Ballymote, Co. Sligo.

September 10th 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians,

We have now completed eight days of school since our re-opening. I wish to thank you all for your efforts to date in ensuring things have gone as smoothly as possible. With everybody's help, school life has commenced again and the challenge now for us all is to remain vigilant and continue with the good practices we are following. The focus at the moment is on wellbeing and re-introducing everyone to school routine.

There are a few points I would like you to note:

- **Arrivals and Collections**

Thanks for your help with the revised arrangements for the arrival and collections of pupils. I know that they don't suit everyone and adjustments to your routine have had to be made. However, they are important in providing as safe an environment as possible in and around the school. Please remember that parents are not permitted to enter the school playground or building.

- **Payments**

Our online system for book rental and other payments will be available very soon and we will inform you as soon as it is ready.

- **Hygiene**

I would encourage you to continue to remind your child about good hand and respiratory hygiene. It is the key to keeping our school safe. In line with our Covid-19 School Plan, we strongly advise that if at all possible, children change out of their school clothes as soon as they go home in the afternoon. Remember that toys should not be brought to school.

- **Home/School Communication**

Currently, parents or guardians should not visit the school. In the event that you would like to talk to a class teacher, please let us know by phone or email and we will arrange for the teacher to get back to you.

- **Appointments**

From time to time, your child might have a medical appointment which requires him/her to leave school early. In this case, please inform the school in advance and your child will be waiting for you at the front door at the agreed time. Please press the door buzzer and we will bring your child to you. Our secretary will complete the usual 'sign in' and 'sign out' process for you.

- **Contact Details**

It is essential that we have up to date contact details for all families. This includes emergency contacts in the event that we can't contact you. If your details have changed recently, Please let the school know.

- **Illness**

As with before, children who are ill should not be sent to school. As you may have noted recently, guidance was issued advising that a child with a runny nose but otherwise well and not requiring medication can be sent to school.

In the event that your child is displaying any of the symptoms of Covid-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, loss of appetite, loss of smell), they should self-isolate and you should seek medical advice.

If your child displays any of the above symptoms when at school, they will be isolated from others and you will be asked to collect them from school. Please be patient with us on this. We are not medics, but will follow the national guidelines and advice.

If a child is referred for a Covid-19 test, they should follow any medical advice and restrict movements until 48 hours symptom free.

- **Homework**

We will continue our policy of no homework until the end of this month.

Yours sincerely,

David O'Farrell

Principal