



Fearann an Chaisleáin,
Baile Brigín,
Co. Átha Cliath.
Rphost:oifig@gsbhailebrigin.ie
01/8416036.
20/8/20

A chairde,

Introduction:

I am writing to you today to draw your attention to a number of additional procedures and routines that we are putting in place to help ensure the safe reopening of our school on 31/8/20. Our updated COVID-19 Risk Assessment has been ratified at our Board of Management meeting on Tuesday evening and is now available on the school website for all to view <https://www.gsbhailebrigin.ie/covid-19>. The Covid-19 Response Plan is available on the website also. This will continue to be a live document and will be updated as things arise.

Éadaí Scoile/School Uniforms:

We would encourage everyone to 2 jumpers/cardigans and 2 shirts, which can be alternated daily. We are conscious of the additional cost involved, so we would like to remind everyone that a generic green school jumper can be bought in most retail shops eg Tesco/Dunnes/M&S. The school tracksuit may be worn on alternate days also. This is to reduce the risk of spread of infection due to coughing/sneezing into the elbow.

Obair Bhaile/Homework:

We will continue with our policy of no written homework from Junior Infants – 4th class. They will continue to have reading, spellings and tables.

Readers: Readers will be rotated throughout the week. Readers will be given on a Monday for example. They will be returned on Wednesday to a box in the classroom and will remain in the box until the following Monday. Another reader will issue on Wednesday and will be returned to box on Friday morning and will remain there until Monday morning.

Copies: For written work (5th & 6th class), students will have 2 homework copies in which all of their written homework is to be completed. The same copy will be used on Monday and Tuesday and then returned to a box in the classroom where it will remain until Friday. The second copy will be used on Wednesday and Thursday and returned to box until Monday.

Books: Every effort will be made to keep the amount of books sent home to the minimum. We would ask that they are wiped down before being returned to school. There will be strictly no sharing of books, therefore it is very important that all books are in schoolbags on return to school. It has been queried if families can purchase their own set of textbooks to keep at home in order to reduce the need to bring home books. There is no problem if any family wants to do that.

Google Classroom/Seesaw: These platforms will be used where possible to try and reduce the need for bringing items in and out of school.

Pencil cases: School pencil cases have been prepared for Infants and therefore there is no need for any to be brought to school. Children in other classes will have to leave their equipment in school. They will not bring them in and out, therefore please ensure that your son/daughter has sufficient stationary at home to carry out any homework they may have.

Filleadh ar Scoil/Return to School:

A separate return to school form is to be filled out for each child and submitted to the school prior to returning. The purpose of this form is to optimise the safety of all of the school community on returning to school. If no form has been submitted within the timeframe set out below, then the child will be refused entry. It is your responsibility to ensure that this does not happen.

The form must be completed and signed/dated by a parent or legal guardian. The form must be completed honestly and in good faith. Incomplete forms will be rejected and the child will not be allowed inside the school building. Any misinformation supplied in this form will be met with a response that has been informed by legal advice. It is of the utmost importance that no child returns to school with any symptoms of COVID-19. This is to ensure the safe and sustained reopening of the school.

For those starting back on Monday 31/8/20, the form is to be completed and signed/dated on Thursday and can be returned to a collection box in the school porch between 9.00-5.00 or from 9.00-12.00 on Friday 28/8/20. Alternatively, it can be emailed to Oifig@gsbhailebrigin.ie with Return to School form and child's name in the subject bar. Please note, forms cannot be returned before Thursday 27/8/20.

For anyone returning at any date later than Monday 31/8/20, the form must be submitted to the school, signed and dated, two full working days in advance of the child's proposed return.

The form will be available to download on the school website from Monday and it will also issue through Aladdin.

We would remind everyone that anyone who has traveled to a country not on the Green List must isolate for 14 days from date of return and, as such, will not be allowed return to school.

Eolas ar shuíomh na scoile/COVID-related information on school website:

We have added a COVID-19 section to the school website. All information regarding the school's reopening will be available from here. This section will include any letters issued to parents/guardians, return to school form, risk assessment, Covid Response plan and any other relevant information.

Cód Iompair/Behavioural Policy:

Our behavioural policy is being updated at present to include COVID-19 and any breaches of procedures. This will be ratified at our Board of Management meeting on Wednesday and will be available on the school website. We would ask everyone to note the amendments and to discuss same with your child(ren).

Lón/Lunches:

A reminder to ensure that students can open their lunch boxes and drinks themselves – please ensure that sufficient drinks are sent to school to reduce the need for filling bottles at the sinks.

Fiseán/Video:

We are preparing a short video for students and parents re return to school. We will show where different classes are to line up, which doors they will come in/out of, what a classroom will look like etc. We would hope that this will be able to reassure students and give them a sense of what will happen on the first day back. We would note however, that work is still ongoing, between cleaning, organising classes and making sure the school is "Covid Ready", so not everything is in place yet. Despite this, we would hope that the video will go some way to providing students with reassurance. There will be no clubs for the month of September. A decision around their safe operation will be taken then.

Naíonáin Bheaga/Junior Infants:

A reminder that Junior Infants will start for the first 3 days at 9.10 instead of 8.50 (M. Clíodhna's class will line up at the back door and Múinteoir Gráinne's will line up in front of Infant window). They will go home at 12.00 for the first 2 weeks, thus they will only need one lunch (Múinteoir Gráinne's class will be collected from the front door and Múinteoir Clíodhna's will be collected from the front door). Members of our learning support staff will

be on hand to help in the morning. Once your child is ready to go into the building, they will go in with their line. Any child who is not ready at that point, may wait with parent until they are ready and will be brought in then.

Céad lá ar ais/First day back:

We will be starting back to school on Monday 31/8/20. A reminder that under no circumstance are parents or students allowed on the premises before 8.45. Please note, as always, no unsupervised children should be on the premises before 8.50. Teachers will be on outside from 8.45 to show students where to go. Members of our learning support team will also be available to help guide people to where they are going.

Ceisteanna Comónta/Frequently Asked Questions:

I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to contact the school with any queries, questions or comments on our return to school. This is a mammoth task and all input is very much appreciated. I have tried to include as much as possible and have tried to clarify procedures as much as possible, however I am sure that there are things missing or not explained clearly enough. To this end, I intend to put together a leaflet with frequently asked questions. This will be based on any questions that parents/guardians may have, that have not been covered in any other correspondence. Therefore, I would ask that if you have any questions, queries or comments, please send them to us before 2.00 on Monday 24/8/20 and I will put it together. If there are questions, this will be available on the website and via Aladdin.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Le meas

Múinteoir Clodagh.