



MUIRE GAN SMÁL NEWS

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September/October 2020

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**Muire Gan Smál
Primary School**



HELLO FROM MS. BURKE

I would like to say hello to the parent body of Muire gan Smál. I am delighted to have the opportunity to work in this wonderful school. I received a very warm welcome last Monday week. Thank you to the staff for helping to make the transition an easy one.

I look forward to getting to know all of the school community and hopefully get to meet you when circumstances change.

Warmest regards,

Grace Burke

RETURN TO SCHOOL

Muire gan Smál reopened for the 2020/21 school year after being closed for five and a half months. It was wonderful to see the smiling faces of all of our students return through the gates.

We must commend them all on adapting so well to the new procedures. Thank you to the parents and guardians for their support and cooperation at this time.

Also, a special thank you is due to the Board of Management and staff of the school for their hard work in preparing the school for reopening.

We wish you all a safe and restful mid-term break.

SCHOOL SAFETY

We wish to assure you that we are doing our utmost to ensure that the school is a safe environment for staff and students. Just some of the measures that have been put in place:

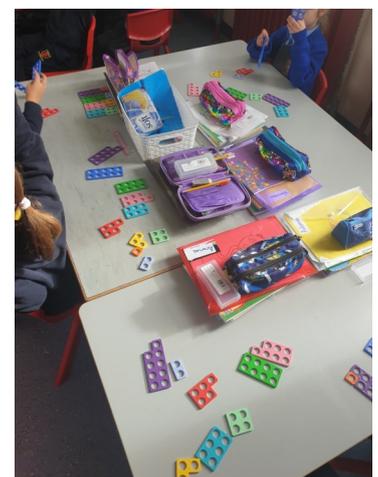
- Sanitiser at every entrance and in every room
- Classes organised into pods and bubbles
- Ventilating rooms as per DES guidance
- Enhanced cleaning regime with a full sanitation of the school every weekend
- Face coverings worn by staff members
- Signage in place around the school
- Creation of an isolation area

We ask that students wear layers to school, particularly coming into the winter months, and bring a good coat for yard time as now, more than ever, it is important that pupils get out in the fresh air where possible.

The safety of our school community is pivotal.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT MUIRE GAN SMÁL:

- Music lessons have been taking place. Pupils in Muire gan Smál play the recorder, accordion, and concertina.
- Ms. Maloney's 6th class learnt all about the bog, creating their own bog in a bottle.
- Classes celebrated Halloween by creating beautiful artwork, learning rhymes and songs and learning about the traditions and customs associated with Halloween.
- Classes have been doing activities on Seesaw.
- Ms. Mellett's Senior Infants went on an Autumn walk.
- Ms Tuohy's 1st Class have been using Numicon to learn about odd and even numbers and patterns.
- Ms De Lacy's 3rd Class learnt about birds through project work.
- Some school books were sent home this week for homework.



HSE MEDICAL ADVICE FOR CHILDREN

WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME AND PHONE YOUR GP

Do not send your child to school if any of the following is true

Your child has:

- A temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- Any common symptoms of COVID-19-a new cough, loss/change of sense of taste/smell, or shortness of breath
- Been a close contact with someone who tested positive
- Been in close contact or living with someone who has been referred for a test
- Been living with someone who may be unwell and may have COVID-19

OTHER SYMPTOMS

If your child has

- Diarrhoea
- Headache
- Sore Throat

Keep them at home for at least 48 hours.

After 48 hours it is ok to send your child back to school as long as:

Their symptoms do not get worse

They do not develop new symptoms

They do not need paracetamol/ibuprofen during these 48 hours

WHEN IT IS OKAY TO SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL

It is usually okay to send your child to school if they

- Only have a runny nose or a sneeze
- Do not have a temperature
- Do not live with anyone who is unwell and may have COVID-19
- Have been told by a GP that their illness is not COVID-19
- Have got a 'not detected' test result and have not had symptoms for 48 hours
- Have not had diarrhoea for 48 hours

CLOSE CONTACT

If your child has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, they should restrict their movements for 14 days even if they feel well and have no symptoms.

CONFIRMED CASE PROCEDURES

The Public Health Department of the HSE is the agency responsible by law for dealing with positive cases of COVID-19:

Once notified by the HSE testing regime, Public Health doctors assume total control of the situation and will carry out a risk assessment. Based on questioning, the person with the positive result will ascertain if they were within the school setting when they contracted the virus. If not, there is no need to contact the school. If the person was within the school setting when they contacted the virus, Public Health will contact the Principal to carry out a Public Health Risk Assessment. This is a set of questions to see who might have been exposed to the virus and who needs to be excluded or tested. The risk assessment will be unique to each school. The Principal and BoM have no function in the risk assessment other than to provide whatever information is required by the Public Health Medical Officer conducting the risk assessment. The Principal and BoM may be asked to assist the Medical Officer by sending a message from them to the relevant families identified in the risk assessment. Public Health will not contact other members of the school community. The Principal and the BoM are not permitted to inform members of the school community of the identity of the person or persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 for the following reasons:

- Doctor-Patient Confidentiality
- GDPR legislation which prevents the publication of personal data without consent

CALENDAR 2020-2021

October 2020 mid-term break: Monday 26th October 2020 to Friday 30th October 2020 inclusive.

Christmas 2020: Closing on Tuesday 22nd December 2020 at 12.10pm and re-opening on Wednesday 6th January 2021.

February 2021 mid-term break: Closed Thursday 18th and Friday 19th February.

Closed Wednesday 17th March-Public Holiday.

Easter 2021: Closing Friday 26th March 2021 at 12.10pm and re-opening on Monday 12th April 2021.

May Break 2021: Close Monday 3rd – Friday 7th May inclusive.

Closed Monday 7th June-Public Holiday

Summer Holidays: Closing Tuesday 29th June 2021 at 12.10pm.

SCHOOL SUPERVISION

Doors to the school will open at 8.50am and supervision will be in place. School begins at 9am. We would kindly ask that pupils are in school for this time.

Thank you for your cooperation!

CHILD PROTECTION

All teachers are mandated to report any disclosures from pupils. The Designated Liaison Person is the Principal Grace Burke. The Deputy Designated Liaison Person is Acting Deputy Principal, Anne Varley.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

While it is accepted that there is a direct link between school attendance and pupil progress, there will be exceptions made this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We thank you all for your vigilance by keeping children who are unwell at home, seeking GP advice and observing the HSE guidelines around restricting movements, isolation etc.

This will have an effect on attendance figures, however, our primary concern is to keep the school open and the school community safe. The school is obliged by law to inform Tusla when a pupil is absent for 20 days in one school year. As teachers fill in the category of absence, parents should contact them to inform them of the nature of the absence. If absences are COVID-19 related, this will be indicated to Tusla.

RETIREMENTS AND STAFF CHANGES

We would like to bid a fond farewell to Principal Teresa Nally, teachers Mary Gormley, Alacoque Ruane and Deputy Principal Nora Maloney. These teachers contributed hugely to the lives of so many children who attended Muire gan Smál over the years. Many congratulations to them all on their retirement.

We would like to welcome Katie Lynn to the permanent staff here in Muire gan Smál.



EARLY COLLECTION

If your child must leave school early, please send a note to your child's teacher informing them of date and time of collection. Alternatively, you can ring the school office.

We can have your child ready for collection at reception at the organised time.

Thank you!

