

Dear Parents/Guardians

As we make our final preparations for our return to school on Monday we have some further information and procedures to bring to your attention:

Entry to school- From Monday morning there will be two entrances **Gate 1** and **Gate 2**. Pupils can enter through either gate and follow footsteps to their designated door

Junior Infants and 1st and 2nd class- enter through front door (special arrangements for Junior Infants on their first day)

3rd and 4th class through the back door of main building

Senior infants and 5th and 6th class enter through the extreme back door in the extension (near prefab)

Pupils will exit from the same door for their break times and home time. Pupils that travel on the bus will exit together from each classroom. All other pupils will follow the above procedures. Pupils travelling on the bus will wait until the bus arrives for them.

Junior infants will finish at 12 noon until September 11th. After this Juniors will exit from **GATE 2** and Senior Infants will exit from **GATE 1**.

Parents waiting for their child should not congregate at the school wall and social distancing should be observed.

There will be no playing in the yard allowed prior to 9.10am children walk straight to their classrooms.

We have installed hand sanitizing stations at every door in the school. There are additional mobile hand sanitizers in each classroom. Pupils will use the hand sanitizer when they arrive, before and after eating and before and after playtime. They will sanitize also before they go home. We have installed hot water taps in each bathroom and children will be reminded to wash their hands thoroughly after going to the bathroom. Bathrooms are sanitized between uses during the day. Children should go to the bathroom at home before they come to school in the morning in order to minimize movement around the school in the mornings. Please encourage your child to practice good respiratory hygiene etiquette and good handwashing practise.

Homework- The staff have decided that there will be no homework for the first two weeks. The situation will be reviewed at this stage and we can look as possibilities on how homework can be managed. The children's books will come in on Monday to school and they will all remain in the school initially. There will no transfer of books between home and school. Younger pupils may find this difficult to understand and can get quite upset when their teacher takes the books from them. Please inform them in advance that this is going to happen! From Tuesday morning the children will just bring their lunch box and drink.

Clothing- Please ensure that your child's clothes are labelled with their name including the school jumper and check throughout the year that the label is still intact. The children are asked to wear their uniform on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tracksuits to be worn on Wednesdays and

Fridays. We may not have outdoor activities on all of the PE days depending on the weather. Could each child bring a packet of tissues to school with them.

Pods and bubbles- Every child will have a pre assigned seat in their pod. Every effort has been made by teachers to put children in pods with their friends. There can be no movement on the pods until Halloween however children can change seats within their own pod. There is no obligation on children in primary school to wear masks or visors however if your child wants to wear a mask or visor they are entitled to wear it.

Junior Infants

It's a strange year to start school but we will make the most of it. This year for the first time parents are not allowed to accompany their child into the school. We want the Junior Infants to have their special first day in school experience. On Monday Junior Infants and their parents are asked to come directly to the basketball court where we will gather on arranged spots and each family gets the opportunity to take pictures of their child with a special "first day at school" photo frame and parents can speak to Mrs. O Leary and can take pictures with their teacher. The Junior Infants will remain outside with their teacher and other staff members while parents can say goodbye for a few hours. At 12 noon Mrs. O Leary will bring the Junior Infants to the gate to meet their parents. We can post pictures of the children on our Facebook page throughout the morning (let me know if you don't want your child to appear on these before Monday) .From Tuesday morning the Junior Infants will come into the school via the front door. Staff will be on hand to help out. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

I will send out a letter over the next few weeks on the Stay Safe programme letting each family know when the programme will start in each class. Primary schools have received curriculum guidance on subjects that should be prioritized at the moment. These include English, Irish, Maths, SPHE and PE. Wellbeing will feature hugely in each classroom as we come to terms with our new normal.

Finally, we are asking for full co-operation from parents on keeping children at home if they are unwell particularly if they are presenting with a high temperature or cough.

We are really looking forward to Monday and seeing all our boys and girls back at Gneeveguilla N.S. I am aware that some of the above content may seem very strict but we will do our utmost to make children feel relaxed, safe and happy at school. If you have any queries over the weekend please email me at any time on gnsgerardine@gmail.com and I will try to assist you in any way possible.

Kind Regards

Gerardine Shanahan

Principal

Gneeveguilla N.S.