

SCOIL MOCHUA

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2021



1. A Good Start ...

We are delighted to be back in school, and even more delighted to have all of the children back with us. All classes have revisited the **4 Golden Rules of Covid**:

- Hand hygiene
- Respiratory Hygiene
- Physical distance (more so between adults)
- Ventilation

The children are in their pods as much as this is possible, and all classes are a bubble in as much as we can provide for this. There is movement from class to class with learning support and SNA work, but this is kept to a minimum, and strict hygiene procedures are adhered to. As an additional measure, all classes are in their own bubbles in the yard at lunchtime. The children have been wonderful in accepting all of these guidelines and in upholding them. We are very proud of them, and are reminded yet again of how resilient and strong our children are. Despite all of these rules, please be assured that there is still lots of laughter in each classroom, and things are as close to 'normal' as we can make them, while safeguarding everyone.

As always, thanks to all of you for helping us to get to this point. You have been so vigilant with regards to all public health guidelines, and it certainly does not go unnoticed by all of us in Scoil Mochua. This is a team effort every step of the way, and we really do feel your support and thank you for it.

I would also like to thank all of the teachers and SNAs for their enormous efforts during remote learning. They pulled out all of the stops to ensure that the children stayed connected to school, and that the teaching and learning progressed. They have also done an excellent job in welcoming the children back to school, addressing any anxieties and worries they may have had, and ensuring that the children continue learning and having fun in school. Thanks is also due to Eileen and Siobhán for keeping the 'school engine' running so efficiently from home, and to our caretaker Val for keeping the school, inside and out, looking so good.

We are very fortunate in Scoil Mochua to have such a supportive and effective team of staff and parents, all working together for the good of the children.

2. Upcoming School Holidays – Reminders

- School **closes at 12pm** this **Friday 26th March 2021** for the **Easter holidays**. We will reopen on Monday 12th April.
- May Bank Holiday Weekend: Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th May 2021

Full details of school calendar available on our website [here](#)

3. Exiting Procedure for this Friday

Gate at Green:

3rd Class will exit at 12pm; 2nd Class will exit at 12.05pm; 1st Class will exit at 12.10pm; Senior Infants will exit at 12.15pm.

Front Gate:

6th Class will exit at 12pm; 5th Class will exit at 12.05pm; 4th Class will exit at 12.10pm; Junior Infants will exit at 12.15pm.

4. Readathon 2021

Due to the pandemic, and the financial implications felt by so many as a result, this year's **Readathon** will not involve any sponsorship or donations. It will be all about the magic of reading. There will be a big promotion of reading throughout the school. Details to follow after Easter.

5. Internet Safety

Please take a look at our website where we have a dedicated page on [Internet Safety](#). Our **Acceptable Use Policy**, and our **Child Protection Risk Assessment** were both updated to reflect the reality of increased internet usage in recent times. Both policies are available on our website [here](#).

6. Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE)

The **Stay Safe** programme will be taught in **Senior Infants, 2nd, 4th and 6th** classes over the coming weeks. We encourage you to speak to your child about the topics discussed when worksheets are sent home to be completed. The programmes will be revised in the other classes. This is in line with our SPHE Policy, and the Department of Education guidelines.

7. Return to School Form

All class teachers will email the link for the **Return to School Form** on Friday. Please fill it in just before the children return to school on April 12th. A reminder will be issued by text towards the end of the break. Thanks for your support in this matter. (This form must be completed and submitted prior to your child's return to school following all absences).

8. Intel

- **The Community Foundation for Ireland**

As part of the above initiative, Scoil Mochua have been awarded €5,500 by Intel to fund our efforts during the pandemic. We have earmarked the money to replace some of the teachers' laptops which are 6/7 years old, and not up to the job of remote teaching! Thanks to Intel for this very generous donation.

- **Benevity Scheme**

For any of our parents who work in Intel, please remember that all of those long hours spend on home-schooling can be logged as part of the Benevity scheme. This will benefit the school. Many thanks.

9. Parents' Association

Thanks to the PA who continue to support us in every way possible. They have organised a nice chocolatey surprise for the classes for later in the week

10. Drop Off and Collection

We encourage you to wear **masks** and avoid congregating when dropping off and collecting your children from school, and we are grateful to see so many of you doing so. We believe this will help to reduce transmission of the virus, thus ensuring that the school can remain fully open.

Staff Car Park: As traffic can enter the car park up until 9am, we ask parents not to enter the car park on foot until after that time. Please ensure children are supervised in the car park at all times. Many thanks for your support and understanding.

11. A Safe and Happy Easter

On behalf of the Board of Management and the staff of Scoil Mochua, we wish you all a very Happy Easter. Please stay safe, and we look forward to seeing you all again on April 12th.