

7th August 2020



Dear Parents / Guardians,

**RE: Re-opening of Scoil Mochua**

I hope you and your families are keeping well.

We are delighted to let you know that preparations to re-open our school safely, in line with current guidance and recommendations are well underway.

Re-opening the school safely will require the co-operation of all members of our School Community – BOM, School Leadership, Staff, Parents and Pupils. We will all be called on to play our part in ensuring that the re-opening of the school is done in a safe manner which prevents the spread of the virus and allows the vital work of Teaching and Learning to proceed in a safe and happy learning environment.

We have been working on our plan for the safe reopening of the school for some weeks now and have published the DES COVID-19 Response Plan for the safe and sustainable reopening of Primary Schools on our school website. The Response Plan gives details of:

- Physical preparation, signage, hand sanitiser stations
- Advice, procedures and training for the safe return to working in the school for all school staff and pupils
- General and specific advice on how all pupils, staff, parents and visitors will prevent the spread of the virus

We have also published our COVID-19 Policy Statement on the school website. We are in the process of putting together a Communication Plan to ensure that the School Community is kept up to date and informed on all aspects of the school reopening, with the wellbeing and safety of all being to the forefront. We will keep you informed as to the progress of our re-opening plans and provide you with the information required by you to play your part in safely re-opening the school.

In order to ensure a safe and orderly return to school, we will welcome some classes back on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August, and some on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August. We will welcome all classes back, apart from Junior Infants, on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August. We will be depending on your full support to follow our guidance regarding arrival at school and home time in order to ensure all of our safety. We will issue detailed guideline in advance of the children starting back. For now, please see the dates and times below for each of the classes (older siblings may arrive at a later time to facilitate younger siblings):

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August**

8.55 – 9.05: 5<sup>th</sup> class  
9.10 – 9.20: 3<sup>rd</sup> class  
9.20 – 9.30: 1<sup>st</sup> class

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August**

8.55 – 9.05: 6<sup>th</sup> class  
9.05 – 9.15: 4<sup>th</sup> class  
9.15-9.25: 2<sup>nd</sup> class  
9.25 – 9.35: Senior Infants

From Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August, we will use the DES allocated daily assembly time to facilitate a staggered arrival at school. This will involve allowing all children a window of time for arriving to school. We envisage this being from 8.50am – 9.20am. On arrival at school all children will proceed straight to class where their teacher will be waiting. The children will play with their group (pod), colour or chat until 9.20am. Then it will be tidy-up time, roll call and formal lessons will commence for all classes at 9.30am. We will issue further guidance on this closer to the time.

Junior Infants will start on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September. We will communicate separately with Junior Infant parents, via text message and the dedicated page on the website, regarding start times and logistics for the first day. We are very much looking forward to welcoming the little ones to 'Big School' and will make their transition as smooth as possible for them.

Many thanks for all of your support throughout the school closure. We look forward to working with you to ensure that Scoil Mochua opens safely and continues to be the happy thriving school that we all know and love.

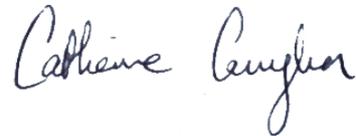
We will be in touch with you again as our plans progress.

Kind Regards,



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Chairperson, Board of Management



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Principal

The following websites provide further information on COVID-19 and on government advice and recommendations regarding the re-opening of schools: -

- <https://www.education.ie/en/covid-19/>
- <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>
- <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/a128d-back-to-school/?referrer=http://www.gov.ie/backtoschool/>