

Uimhir Rolla **15104T**

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**Scoil Bhríde
Cannistown
Navan
County Meath
C15 CX61**

Tuesday, 18 August 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you and your families are keeping well.

We are looking forward to a two phase re-opening of Scoil Bhríde (50% of pupils on Thursday 27 August and the other 50% of pupils on Friday 28 August) in line with current guidelines and recommendations. All pupils will return together on Monday 31 August. See attached table on page 3 of this letter.

We recognise that there will be a broad range of responses when we return to school, ranging from children and their parents/guardians being happy and relieved to get back to school to some of you being apprehensive or nervous.

With all of us having been away from the school for six months there will be specific emphasis on the well-being of the school community as we navigate the coming weeks.

Re-opening the school safely will require the co-operation of all members of our school community – Board of Management, School Leadership, staff, parents and pupils. We will 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 with as little disruption as possible.

A significant cultural shift in the behaviour of pupils, their families and staff will be required, with each playing their role in keeping the virus out of our school by:

- Staying out of school if you have symptoms or suspect you have the virus;
- Maintaining hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette;
- Minimising social contacts;
- Respecting physical distancing practices.

Re-opening our school is not just a matter of achieving a certain minimum physical distancing. It is also about getting pupils re-engaged with learning and socialising with their peers. Pupils will need the support of their families, teachers and school staff in readjusting to school life and the physical learning environment again.

Scoil Bhríde will rise to this challenge.

The key themes of the Public Health Advice necessary to keep us all safe will permeate throughout our school community by:

- Applying common sense;
- Adopting a balanced approach;
- Doing everything practical to avoid the introduction of COVID-19 into the school;
- Being aware of what we can all do to protect ourselves and each other;
- Knowing how to recognise and report the symptoms of COVID-19, and the need to stay at home if we feel unwell;
- Continuing to observe physical distancing, good hand hygiene and good respiratory etiquette.

The Board of Management has been working on our COVID-19 School Response Plan for a number of weeks now and will be sharing this with you when it has been completed.

Between now and the end of August, the Board of Management and the School Leadership Team will be in touch with you with all relevant information.

This plan will include earlier start and dismissal times (which will be staggered). It will also include classroom details and other practical measures for your information.

Our aim is to re-open the school in an orderly and safe manner. We aim to reassure the children and make them feel comfortable, safe and relaxed with their friends in the new school environment.

This will be achieved by us all working together towards a common goal.

Le gach dea-ghuí

Brian Kennedy

Chairperson
Board of Management

Maura Durkin

Principal



LIST OF CLASS RETURN DATES FOR 2020

	<i>Thursday 27 August</i>	<i>Friday 28 August</i>
Junior Infants	Mrs O'Grady	Ms McNerney
Senior Infants	Ms Guy	Ms Brady
First Class	Ms McDonagh	Ms Donoghue
Second Class	Mrs O'Brien	Mrs Tully
Third Class	Ms Harlin	Mr Curran
Fourth Class	Mrs O'Connor	Ms O. O'Brien
Fifth Class	Ms Walsh	Ms Hannon
Sixth Class	Mr Reilly	Mr Mullen



**OUR SCHOOL PLAN WILL BE UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW
FOR THE WELFARE OF OUR WHOLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY.**