**Scoil Inse Rátha**

**Deán do Dhícheall**

**News Update: 28/8/2020**

**Dear Parents,**

Four more sleeps until we welcome our wonderful students back into our school building. Our logistics plan is on our website under Information for Parents. This includes where your child will be entering and exiting from the building.

**Arrival:**

Junior Infants start at 9am on the first day and their parents are allowed bring them to the door by the pitch for the first week. They can be dropped from 8.40am to 9.05am after the first day.

All other children are to arrive for class between 8.40am and 9.05am. Staff will be wearing face shields so children can recognise us.

As each child comes in the gate they will be met by Ms. Diamond or myself and reminded to use the hand sanitiser. We are presuming that each child will wash their hands properly before leaving home. We will direct them to the yard at the back of the school to enter by their assigned door. Staff will be around to make sure everyone gets into their class safely. Teachers will be in their class to supervise and welcome the children back.

**Routines:**

Schoolbags, homework, coats, uniforms etc will be used as normal. There are some adjustments to be made in each class and your child’s teacher will go through these with them when they are in school. This is new for all of us so if your child doesn’t have something, or forgets to do something, we will be kind in how we handle it.

**Yard/Break times:**

Children will have to wash their hands before they eat at each break. The yard will be divided into four sections by large red and white bollards and your child will be playing with their own class only. Each class will have a football and basketball. They won’t be able to take equipment from the PE shed as they would have in previous years. They will wash their hands again on returning to class. Yard times are the same as last year.

**Contacting staff:**

We won’t be able to facilitate informal meetings at the gate this year as we need to avoid groups gathering at the gate. You can ring Jacinta to make an appointment or to pass on a message or you can put a note in your child’s homework journal. Meetings in person will involve a contact tracing sheet and the wearing of face masks.

**Contact Details:**

We will be looking for up to date contact details from you next week including an email address to be used for remote learning. The contact details you provide will also have to be passed to the HSE for contact tracing purposes should that be necessary.

We will also be looking for up to date medical history/concerns where appropriate so that each teacher is aware if there are any concerns.

If you have any concerns about how we will be using this information, please contact me.

**After School Activities, Extra Curricular Activities and Visitors:**

There will be no after school activities or clubs until at least after Oct 31st. We will not have any visiting teachers or groups either. Our guiding goal is to increase separation and decrease interaction as much as we can. This will be disappointing for everyone but we need to do everything in our power to keep our school open.

**Our expectations of parents:**

Explain to your child the importance of good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

Maintain social distancing at the gate to give good example to the children. Where social distancing isn’t possible please wear a face covering.

Make appointments to speak to your child’s teacher. Good communication between home and school is an essential part of the education of your child. It may feel strange to be making an appointment to talk about something small but we need to keep in touch.

All visitors to the school must go through reception. If Jacinta isn’t there pull the cord and someone will come to you. We have to fill in a contact tracing log for all visitors for the HSE so we can’t have parents in around the building like we might have had in previous years. Please be assured that we are still the same people and you and your child will get a warm welcome but we need to abide by the new measures.

We look forward to next Tuesday. A huge amount of planning has gone into this over the last five weeks so rest assured that your child will be as safe and secure as possible.

If you have any concerns please contact me at principal@littleislandns.com.

All the best,

Micheál Rea