

Glenahulla School

Oideas agus scléip faoi threoir Dé
glenahulla.ns@gmail.com



National Newsletter

August 2020
www.glenahullans.com

Returning to School - Information for Parents

Foireann Scoile

Firstly the following is the break down of class and teacher allocation for the year ahead:

Junior and Senior Infants - Ms.Murphy (covering maternity leave for Ms.Courtney)

1st & 2nd Class - Ms.Cashman (covering maternity leave for Ms.Kelleher)

3rd & 4th Class - Ms. O'Mahony

5th & 6th Class - Ms.Buckley

SET - Ms.Wallace & Ms.O'Flynn (Job Share)

SET - Mr.Fitzgerald

SET shared with Curraghulla NS - Mr.O'Brien

Acting Deputy Principal: Ms. O'Mahony

Acting Assistant Principal Post Holder: Ms. Buckley

As you can see from above there are a number of changes to our *foireann scoile* this year. We would like to wish Ms.Courtney & Ms.Kelleher the very best of luck with their maternity leaves and extend a warm Glenahulla welcome to Ms.Murphy and Ms. Cashman.

Physical Distancing

Following the publication of the Department's Roadmap to Reopening Schools, we have been working hard on a plan to ensure that Glenahulla National School is ready to open in a safe and sustainable manner for all pupils, staff and parents.

Here are the main **guidelines, decisions and actions** required by all;

- Pupils from Junior Infants to Second Class are not expected to maintain social distance.
- Pupils from 3rd - 6th Class will be asked to keep a 1m physical distance where possible and will be seated 1m apart.
- Each class will be referred to as a 'bubble' and there will be as little contact as possible between children in different bubbles.
- Within the bubbles, children may be organised into 'pods'. A pod is a group of children who will sit together and who will stay in their pod while in the bubble, or classroom.
- At break time each bubble will be allocated a section in the playground, and the children will be confined to playing with their own class.
- There will be no whole school activities such as assemblies in the foreseeable future.

- Each classroom or 'bubble' has been assigned a colour. This is to assist procedures around the division of the school yard and entering and leaving school.

Junior and Senior Infants - **YELLOW**

1st & 2nd Class - **RED**

3rd & 4th Class - **BLUE**

5th & 6th Class - **GREEN**

Arriving to School

We will continue the practice of staggering morning drop off times from 8.45am - 9am using the following guide.

- Family surnames beginning with the letters A - F 8.45- 8.50am
- Family surnames beginning with the letters G - M 8.50- 8.55am
- Family surnames beginning with the letters N - Z 8.55- 9.00am

Children only can enter the school gate. When entering the school gate the children will follow instructions/directions for their class colour.

Please note that the Board of Management does not hold any responsibility for the supervision of children in the school yard before 8.45a.m.

Leaving School - Infants

Junior and Senior Infants will exit through the front door each day at 1.40pm. Ms. Murphy will call each child when she sees the person collecting them and it is their turn to leave. Please inform Ms. Murphy if there is ever a change in the person collecting your child.

Reminder: Junior Infants will be going home at the earlier time of **12pm** up to and including **Wednesday 9th September**. Thereafter, they will go home at **1.40pm**.

Leaving School - 1st - 6th Class

We will continue the practice of allowing fifteen minutes for the collection of children in 1st - 6th class to take place from 2.40 - 2.55pm. All three classrooms will have different exit points from the school and will be assigned a collection space in the front of the school.

- 5th & 6th class will be first out at 2.40pm.
- 1st - 4th class will leave their classroom when the bell rings, proceed downstairs, arriving in the front yard at 2.45pm approximately.

We would encourage parents to obey social distance rules at the school wall.

Do not loiter around the school at drop off and collection time.

It is strictly 'set down and go' at all times.

Staying safe

- Throughout the school there will be hand sanitisers provided which children will be required to use and will be asked to regularly wash their hands while in school.
- Staff will maintain a regular cleaning routine of all resources and materials that will be used by different pods or classes. Where necessary items of school equipment will be isolated for 72 hours prior to being used by a different pod/class.
- The school will be cleaned following all government guidelines, advice and checklists, every day.

Preventing the Risk of Infection

While all children will be welcome back to school, we would remind parents that, where children are displaying colds, coughs, high temperatures or flu like symptoms, they should not be sent to school. Children who display such symptoms in school will be isolated and parents asked to collect them from the school. If you are in any doubt whether you should send your child to school or not, please err on the side of caution. Take your child's temperature before coming to school and ensure their hands are clean.

Teachers will make children aware of the proper hygiene procedures regarding hand washing and etiquette related to sneezing, coughing or spitting. We would be grateful if you could also emphasise safe behaviour in this regard to your children at home as part of the preparation for returning to school.

Communication between Home & School

As per Department of Education Guidelines parents are not allowed enter the school grounds, unless prior permission to do so has been granted by the principal Mr.Fitzgerald. Communication with class teachers and Mr.Fitzgerald should be done through the following means.

1. **Notes:** write notes in your child's homework journal.
Please check regularly for notes and sign the journal nightly.
2. **Telephone:** 022 25476.
If not answered leave a message. We will check the messages at both breaks and after school.
3. **Email:** glenahulla.ns@gmail.com
(please note teacher email addresses created during the lockdown for GSuite purposes such as p.fitzgerald@glenahullans.ie are only being used by teachers for GSuite activities)

Our main form of communication to parents will be through Aladdin email. Please ensure that we have your correct details and that you check your emails regularly.

School Uniform

There has been a lot of dialogue in the media in recent weeks regarding the daily washing of school uniforms. There has been NO recommendations or guidelines given from the Department regarding this matter. However parents may feel that the daily washing of uniforms is necessary, therefore the following arrangements for the wearing of uniforms and tracksuits will be in place for the months of September and October.

Downstairs classes - **Junior Infants / Senior Infants / 5th class / 6th class** wear tracksuits on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and wear uniforms on Tuesday and Thursday.

Upstairs classes - **1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th class** wear uniforms on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and wear tracksuits on Tuesday and Thursday.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Thursday 27th August!!

Ní neart go cur le chéile