



Dear Parents,

I hope you are all safe and well.

The teachers and SNAs in Scoil Íosa are sincerely grateful for the wonderful work you have done to support your child with their learning over the last number of weeks.

We are very pleased to let you know that the school will reopen on **Monday March 15th** for children from **3rd to 6th classes**. With your help we can take the right steps to stop the spread of the virus and keep our families, friends and community safe and healthy

As we reopen the school, our priority is to keep the children and staff safe from Covid-19. We have taken all appropriate measures to limit the risk of the virus spreading amongst the children and staff in the school.

We would be very grateful if you would kindly read the guidelines for parents contained in this pamphlet.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Tunney and Monica Duffy

Key Messages for Parents and Pupils

Scoil Íosa reopens on March 15th

for 3rd to 6th Classes

Parents are not permitted to enter the school grounds or building without having made an appointment.

At drop off and collection times, parents are asked to wear a mask at the school gate. Any parent who wishes to speak to a teacher can make an appointment by ringing one of the numbers below.

Appointment or Enquiries : (096) 96210 or (087) 2180041

Email: info@scoiliosaballina.ie

If your child has any of the following symptoms of Covid-19, do not send them to school and contact your GP:

- > A temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- > Any other common symptoms of Covid-19 – a new cough, loss or changed sense of taste or smell, shortness of breath or an existing breathing condition that has become worse
- > Been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid
- > Been living with someone who is unwell and may have Covid
- > Other uncommon symptoms of Covid-19, such as sore throat, headaches or diarrhoea
- > If any family member returned from another country in the last 14 days

Home School Community Liaison Teacher

Bernie McGoldrick (085) 251 0154

Arrangements for the safe reopening of Scoil Íosa for children in 3rd to 6th Classes

The planning and preparation for this first phase of reopening is in line with the public health advice we have received from the Department of Education and NPHE. **In order for us to limit the risk of the spread of COVID-19 in the school, we ask you please to adhere to the following, so that our infection control measures are effective in making the school safe for children and staff.**

Drop off Times at Gate: The school doors will not open until 9.10 am.

Please drop your child at the school between 9.10 am and 9.30am.

School Lunches will be provided from Monday March 15th

1. In keeping with Department of Education guidelines, one teacher (Ms. Nealon) will continue as the Lead Worker Representative.

In this role, she will ensure that the school adheres strictly to best practices in relation to the protection of staff and children from the spread of Covid-19.

2. Our Covid-19 Policy Statement and Response Plan have been updated. (Available at www.scoiliosaballina.ie)

3. A room on the senior side of the school will be used as an Isolation Room. If a staff member feels that a child is displaying symptoms of Covid-19, the child will be taken to the isolation room and their parents will be contacted and asked to collect them immediately. The room will be fully sanitised immediately afterwards. In the event that your child becomes unwell in school, it is of the utmost importance that we have an up to date contact number for you.

4. The following arrangements remain in place:

Separate entrance/exit door for class groupings

The children will be divided into pods. The children will sit with these same children at school every day. The special education teachers (SET) will continue to take class groupings. This will allow us to have a maximum of approximately twelve students in any one classroom.

Children will not be permitted to share pens, pencils, crayons, markers etc.

The Board of Management will continue to employ a cleaner to sanitise and clean areas in the school throughout the day (e.g. toilets, door handles etc.)

The children will be asked to wash and sanitise their hands regularly throughout the school day.

All classrooms and corridors are equipped with sanitising units and soap dispensers.

Parents are asked to ensure their children's hands are washed thoroughly before they come to school and that they wear a clean school uniform.

5. Please do not allow your child to bring in a schoolbag.

The children will be given time in school to complete their homework. A lunch from home can be taken to school in a small bag.

6. Although currently it is not mandatory to wear facemasks, **we are advising that children from 3rd to 6th classes wear facemasks.**

Parents of children attending during the reopening starting on March 15th, are being asked to complete the enclosed **Declaration Form** and have their child return it to their teacher.

We have been informed by the Department of Education that it is not advisable for parents to gather at the school during drop off and collection times. We appreciate your co-operation in these challenging times.