

Shountrade National School



Adare, Co. Limerick V94 HC 65

061 396 765

shountradens@gmail.com

www.shountrade.ie

Roll No. 17068F

Principal: Alan Kilcoyne

Deputy Principal: Patrick O' Connell

Dear Parent / Guardian,

RE: Re-opening Shountrade National School

I hope you and your families are keeping well.

As you are aware, our school has now been closed since 12th March due to the COVID-19 situation. We are now hoping to re-open our school safely, in line with current guidance and recommendations.

Re-opening the school safely will require the co-operation of all members of our School Community – BoM, School Leadership, Staff, Parents/ Guardians and Pupils. We will all be called on to play our part in ensuring that 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.

We have been working on our plan for the safe reopening of the school for some weeks now and have published the School COVID-19 Response Plan for the safe and sustainable reopening of our school on the **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 will apply physical distancing in a practical and sensible way, recognising that the learning environment cannot be dominated by a potentially counterproductive focus on this issue.

Physical Distancing will be achieved in two ways: -

- **Increasing Separation.** This will be achieved by re-configuring the classrooms to maximise physical distancing. Each class will be referred to as a **bubble** and we will ensure that there is as little contact as possible between children in different bubbles. From 3rd to 6th class, within the bubbles, children will be organised into **pods**. A pod is a group of children (normally 4-6) who will sit together and who will stay in their pod while in the bubble, or classroom.

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- **Decreasing Interaction.** This will be achieved by decreasing the potential for children from different bubbles to interact. There will be marked routes for various bubbles to enter and exit the school and to access their classrooms. Both school breaks will be staggered. The school yard will be divided into three sections, one section each for Juniors Infants, Senior Infants, and 1st/ 2nd Class. Those three sections are then available for 3rd/ 4th Class, 5th Class and Sixth Class. We will make these routines enjoyable activities for the children, emphasising safety at all times.

While all children will be welcome back to school, we would remind parents/guardians that, where children are displaying colds, coughs, 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.

Children who have travelled from countries not on the Green List should not attend school during the 14-day self-isolation period – all families must **Complete** and **Forward** the attached **Declaration** (attached to this Email) – 2 forms of the declaration available, please complete one and send to shountradedecovidreturn@gmail.com by **Monday 24th of August**.

Unfortunately, any family who does not complete and return the Declaration by Email will not be allowed to return to school.

Further information on COVID-19 symptoms in children is available at: -

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/if-your-child-has-symptoms.html>

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.

I would also like to highlight certain procedures that will be put in place as in our school response plan:

Here are some of the control measures that are being put in place:

Procedures:

- Classes will be structured into Class Bubbles (a class grouping which stays apart from other classes as much that is practical) and from 3rd to 6th classes, Class Bubbles will be divided into 'Pods'(discrete groups) to the extent that is practical. There will be 1m between 'Pods' where possible.

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- **Formal Lessons**

Junior Infants to 4th class will begin at 9 00 am.

5th Class and 6th Class will begin at 9.05 am.

- Arrangements for dropping off and picking up pupils from the school facility are organised to maintain, as far as is reasonably practicable, a safe social distance between drivers/parents/guardians and all school staff.

- **Entrances.**

To avoid crossing paths on entry and exit we are now using 3 access points for pupils.

RED Entrance= Fire exit at end of school building.

WHITE Entrance= Main school door.

BLUE Entrance= Door at the top of school (old Building)

NOTE- The pupils entering these areas need to do so through the gate opposite Entrance

GATES.

RED= Gate at hurling pitch.

WHITE= Main school gate

BLUE= Gate at the top of school wall at old building side.

Note:- There are coloured footprints on the school yard to highlight these points of entry.

Junior Infants and 1st/ 2nd Class- **RED entrance**

Senior Infants and 3^r/ 4th Class- **WHITE entrance**

5th and 6th Class- **BLUE entrance**

1. Dropping pupils to school

- Nobody is permitted on the school grounds until **8 45 am**. From **8 45 am** children will walk to their classrooms/Bubble and congregating in the school yard or at the school gate is strictly prohibited. If people arrive before **8 45 am**, they are asked to wait in their cars.
- Parents/ Guardians of Junior and Senior Infants are permitted to walk their children to the school gate entrance.
- We encourage Parents/ Guardians from 1st to 6th Class to allow children to enter school as quick as possible and independently if they can.
- This is to avoid any congregating at school gate.

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- Parents/ Guardians are not permitted on the school yard/grounds.

2. Collection of pupils.

- **Junior Infants and Senior Infants:**

At 1 40 pm, infants will be collected Parents/ Guardians of infants are encouraged to adhere to social distancing protocols. Parents of Junior and Senior Infants are permitted to collect their children at the school gate entrance.

- **1st Class to 6th Class:- Staggered**

At 2 40 pm children will leave the school in a staggered manner. 1st/2nd/3rd/4th will leave at 2 40 pm, and 5th and 6th will leave at 2 45 am.

We encourage Parents/ Guardians from 1st to 6th Class to encourage their child/ children to make their way from the school yard to Parent/ Guardian as quick as possible and independently if they can.

- This is to avoid any **congregating at school gate.**

NOTE: Supervision will be on the school yard until **2.50pm**

This system will apply rain, hail, or shine so please ensure that your child comes to school prepared for the weather every day! - thank you.

3. Break Times.

Breaks- *Staggered*-There are 3 designated yards sections

NOTE-Classes/Bubbles will not be mixing during break times

- **SOS:**

Junior Infants/ Senior Infant/ 1st Class and 2nd Class

10.50 to 11.00

3rd/ 4th/5th and 6th class

11.00 to 11.10

- **LÓN:**

Junior Infants/ Senior Infant/ 1st Class and 2nd Class

12.30 to 1.00

3rd/ 4th/5th and 6th class

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1.00 to 1.30

- **Physical Education:**

We have introduced a continuous timed daily WJR- Walk/Jog/ Run to each class/
Bubble
(Weather Permitting).

Junior Infants-2 Minutes

Senior Infants- 3 Minutes

1st Class/ 2nd Class- 4 Minutes

3rd Class/ 4th Class- 5 Minutes

5th Class/ 6th Class- 6 Minutes

GENERAL:

- **P.E.-** Children are asked to wear **School tracksuit** on **Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday** for 2020/ 2021 in order to facilitate the timetabling of an assigned day for 2 classes each week.
NOTE: the school Halla will not be used for P. E.
- **Siblings:** Junior and Senior Infants who have siblings in older class can remain in their Bubble until 2 40pm and 2 45 pm depending on time of sibling collection.
- There will be a no hand shaking and no hugging policy in place.
- Any pupil exhibiting signs/ symptoms of Covid-19 or has been exposed to a confirmed case **SHOULD NOT** attend school.
- There will be no SOFT toys in use in school for 2020/2021.
- Hand sanitizers will be available throughout at entry and exit points, entrances to classrooms, computer room and staffroom. Hand washing facilities will be provided in each classroom.

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- Strict handwashing and sanitizing routines will be in place.
- Sharing of resources will be minimised. Tablets, desktops, laptops etc will be wiped down after use.
- **Lunches-** Parents/ Guardians must ensure that children bring their lunches to school to avoid adults having to come to the school during the day. Pupils will eat their lunches at their desks. Desks will be clear when eating. Pupils will sanitise hands prior to eating. Pupils will not share food or drinks with other children.
- **Waste-** For 2020/ 2021. Each classroom will only have 2 bins, a pedal bin for all paper towels and tissues used and a general bin for both paper and compost. This is to minimise any potential spreading.
- **Stationery-** The sharing of stationery among students is not allowed, so please ensure that each pupil has their full pencil case with them daily. If not, a phone call will be made to see if it is possible to bring to school. Please ensure that each stationery piece is clearly labelled.
- There is a suitable area in place as an isolation area in the event of a suspected case of Covid19.
- Classrooms to be ventilated as much as is practical, windows and doors to be left open as much as possible. Only teachers are allowed to open/close internal doors with the exception of toilet doors.
- All staff will have to undertake and complete Covid 19 Induction training prior to returning to school.
- Staff will be required to be wear face coverings within the school facility according to current occupational and public health guidance if a 2metre distance cannot be ensured.
- **Visitors-** Access to the school building will be limited to school staff and students with the exception of visitors for essential purposes. Arrangements for necessary visitors such as contractors and parents/guardians for essential purposes must be made in advance with the Principal or staff member. Visitors will be received inside the main entrance and will be subject to the same controls that apply to staff. A contact tracing log will be maintained.

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- **Early Collection-** Any child who is now being collected before the end of the School Day or returning to school after being collected early in the school day, needs to be **signed in /out** in the school office before leaving or returning to class. The SIGN- IN book is in the School Office. (This will continue after the Covid measures are not in use anymore).
- **Supporting the learning of children who cannot attend school-** A medical certificate to support this is advised by the Department of Education and Skills. If a child is not able to attend school for an extended period of time, the class teacher (and/ or the Special Education Teacher, where relevant) will provide work to support the pupil's learning at home and this will be shared with parents and guardians.
- **Parent/ Guardian INFORMATION-** The majority of parents/ guardians have already provided an Email address at which the school can contact them This will be especially important if the school, or parts of the school have to close due to HSE advice. Parents/ Guardians are asked to please ensure the school have the most up to date Email and Phone Number. Also, if these details change at any stage to please inform the school immediately.
- **Office Hours-** Mary, our school secretary is in school office Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 9.00am to 2.30pm and Friday from 9.00am to 1pm.
- **CONTINUUM OF SUPPORT-** This year Shountrade National School will be engaging fully with the continuum of support. This is a wonderful model of Special Education. In early September I will be forwarding home a Parent Letter as to how it works. The continuum of Support will begin for all pupils concerned on Monday the 14th of September. After each pupils File is ready a meeting will be scheduled via a phone call to explain and discuss how your child will be supported through the Continuum of Support and to accept verbal consent for the support. These meeting via phone call will all take place before Monday the 14th of September.

Please familiarise yourself with all control measures as set out in school response plan and risk assessment. (under policies) At www.shountrade.ie

Also Attached.

Our Covid 19 Policy Statement and Risk Assessment is also included in this response plan.

We are really looking forward to welcoming our children back to school and will be doing **all** that we can to ensure that the return to school is a safe and enjoyable experience for the children.

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I would like to take this opportunity to **thank** all the parents/ guardians of Shountrade National School for your support over the closure period and our re- opening.

Kind regards,

Alan Kilcoyne

Principal,
Shountrade National School