 

**Re-opening of Coláiste Chilliain for the 2021-2022 School Year.**

With the new school year nearly upon us we have been reviewing our Covid-19 Containment Plan in the current context. Guidelines were issued from the Department of Education & Skills stating that the same conditions as last year were to be maintained. This means that we had to only make minimal changes to our plan, but we would ask you to read it again in order to familiarise yourself and your son/daughter on how to keep the school community safe from this disease. While most adults would now have received their vaccines and while they are also now available to 12-18 year olds the Delta variant is very infectious. Therefore we have to take the same steps that proved successful before for the 2021-2022 school year.

We again ask parents NOT to send pupils to school who are displaying any of the symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, loss of smell, high temperature, sore throat etc.). It would also be prudent to contact your GP.

If you are contacted by the school due to your son/daughter feeling unwell it is imperative that arrangements are in place to collect him/her quickly and safely. To this effect it is important that contact details are correct and up to date. This can be checked on VS Ware.

* We are maintaining the one-hour class periods to minimise student movement throughout the day. Instead of 9 periods a day we will have 6 (plus a short tutorial meeting). On Wednesdays we will have 4 periods (plus tutorial). The time allocated to each subject will remain in line with Department of Education requirements. Classes will commence @ 08.30 and end @ 15.20 (12.50 on Wednesdays). Break time will remain 15 minutes and lunchtime will increase to 35 minutes.
* All classes have a base room. Instead of the pupils moving from class to class, the teachers go to the base classroom. We have maximised the space in our base rooms.
* Students are asked to bring a face covering, hand sanitiser, sanitising wipes to school with them. All students must wear a face covering anytime they are in the school building. If there is a medical issue regarding face covering, please contact the school.
* As classes have base rooms we expect the individual classes to keep the room as neat and tidy as possible. If there is an issue, the class will be expected to clean the room @ 15.20.
* We have an open classroom door policy also to increase circulation and to supervise students between classes. The Department of Education & Skills is sending CO2 monitors to school to help measure and maintain healthy air quality in the classrooms.
* Pupils will still have to move when attending a practical / choice subject. The specialist rooms will only be used for the relevant subjects as far as possible.
* Pupils are allowed to wear their PE uniform (school t-shirt and navy tracksuit bottoms) on the day they are timetabled for PE. This will eradicate the need for changing rooms and afford opportunity for washing of uniforms during the week. However, if the incorrect sport gear is being worn sanctions will be imposed.
* Break times are difficult to manage and we have the following plan in place;

Am Sosa:

1st – 4th years – school yard except in inclement weather.

* + 5th & 6th Years - choice to stay in base room or go to school yard.

Am Lóin:

* 5th & 6th years have permission (with parental consent) to leave the school grounds
  + - 1st – 4th years – same as am sosa.

There is an order system for buying food in the shop – a representative from the class will bring and collect orders from the shop. This eliminates the need for queues for the shop.

* We would encourage pupils to go to the school yard to maximise their exposure to fresh air and to partake in some exercise to make up for not moving from room to room.
* We have 10 sanitation stations installed throughout the school. Hand sanitisers are also installed in every classroom.
* We disinfect every base classroom as well as any practical room used every day. The disinfectant is the highest standard required for Covid-19.
* Practical classes are disinfected after every session before a new group enters the room and use the same equipment.
* We also take everyone’s temperature on entering the school building and in the event of a consistently high temperature we send the pupil to our isolation area and contact the parents. We have designated the reception room at the main door as our Covid-19 isolation room.
* We have a one-way system in the school to reduce potential contact. There will be one entrance and multiple exits for the pupils for the same reason.
* Extra cleaning staff are employed to assist in our efforts to ensure best cleaning practice.
* A School Co-ordinator for Covid-19 ensures compliance with statutory obligations and in the event of an outbreak that the school follows the required procedures.
* All staff are required to wear face coverings.
* Parental and visitor access to school is restricted to essential purposes only.
* Covid-19 signage has been erected throughout the school.
* Lockers will not be available again this year as it is impossible to maintain social distancing. We recommend that pupils have a box for their base room to keep their books/copies neat and tidy.

**The following calendar is how we will commence the 2021-2022 school year:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |
| Monday  30/08/2021 | Bliain 1 (8.30 – 10.30) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tuesday  31/08/2021 | Bliain 1  (8.30-10.30 | Bliain 3 (8.30 – 10.30) | Bliain 6 (8.30 – 10.30) |  |  |  |
| Wednesday  01/09/2021 | Bliain 1  (8.30-12.50) | Bliain 2  (8.30-12.50) | Bliain 3  (8.30-12.50) | Bliain 5  (8.30-12.50) | Bliain 6 (8.30 – 12.50) |  |
| Thursday  02/09/2021 | Bliain 1  (8.30-15.20) | Bliain 2  (8.30-15.20) | Bliain 3  (8.30-15.20 | **Bliain 4**  **(8.30 – 10.30)** | Bliain 5  (8.30 – 15.20) | Bliain 6  (8.30 – 15.20) |
| Friday  03/09/2021 | GACH Bliain– Lá iomlán. | All Years – full day |  |  |  |  |

We recognise that there is still a level of anxiety surrounding the return to schools. We are confident that the measures we have taken will continue to offer us all, students, staff and parents a level of protection. We will continue to endeavour to keep our school community safe.

We expect full cooperation with our plan from the school community and look forward to a safe and uninterrupted school year.

Is muidne le meas,

*Feargal Ó Giolláin* – Príomhoide

*Sorcha Ní Dhomhnaill* – Leas-Príomhoide

August 2021