

Scoil Phádraig, Ballyhale, Co. Kilkenny.

Principal: Tomás O Dowd
Phone: (056) 7768915
EIRCODE: R95 EK00

Email: scoil@ballyhale.com
Website: www.ballyhale.com
Rolla No.: 17628r



29th of September 2020

Dear Parents,

I am really pleased that the children have settled back to school and are happy and content. Many thanks for your support and encouragement. Schools need to remain open for our wellbeing and health.

Aladdin

From October 5th onward we will only be corresponding with parents by both email and text through Aladdin. Please call the office if you have any problems registering with Aladdin.

Homework

We will resume giving homework from Monday 5th of October. Initially the homework will concentrate on reading, spellings, tables and some written work. This will vary from teacher to teacher.

Coats/Jacket

We also ask parents to send a coat/ jacket to school with your child every day. Movement breaks or walks may take place during the day. Windows will also be open during the day to ventilate rooms so please ensure your child is appropriately dressed for this.

Collection and Dropping off children

Children being brought to the school must be left at the main gate and the children will then walk to their classroom. Please note that adults will NOT be allowed into the school building during the school day. Any meetings that need to be held will be done by prior appointment or by phone call only. If you are collecting a child early please ring the school (056 7768915) when you are at the gate and the children will be walked down to you.

Dealing with illness or a suspected Covid-19 Case

- For everyone's health and safety, we have a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy in relation to illnesses and suspected cases of Covid. This is for everyone's safety.
- Staff or pupils must not attend school if they are unwell. Symptoms such as a **fever, cough (dry or otherwise), shortness of breath or breathing difficulties, loss or change to sense of taste or smell may indicate Covid-19. Other symptoms such as unusual fatigue, sore throat, aches and pains, chills, runny/stuffy nose, sneezing, vomiting and diarrhoea may also indicate that a child/staff member is developing an illness.**
- Staff/ children who have chronic illnesses or conditions with some of these symptoms must produce a doctor's letter to this effect and must notify us immediately of any changes to their baseline condition.

- A dedicated **isolation room** in the old school will be available for children or staff members who are displaying symptoms or become unwell during the school day.
- If a pupil displays symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, the following procedure will be implemented:
 - The pupil will be accompanied to the isolation room by a staff member via their designated entry/exit point. A distance of 2 meters will be maintained. The staff member or pupil who is symptomatic will be required to wear a face mask (provided) until collection.
 - Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately by telephone. To help us in this regard, parents and guardians are asked to make sure that their contact details are kept up to date at all times.
 - The individual who is symptomatic should avoid touching people, surfaces and objects.
 - If the individual concerned is well enough to go home, arrangements will be made for them to be transported home by a family member, as soon as possible. The child can be collected from the isolation area and their parent/carer will not need to go near the classroom or reception area.
 - Appropriate cleaning and disinfecting of the area will be carried out in a timely manner and in line with recommended procedures.
 - Public transport, of any kind, should not be used to travel home.
 - If the individual is too unwell to go home or advice is required, the school will contact 999 or 112 and inform them that the sick person is a Covid-19 suspect.
 - The HSE will inform any staff/parents who have come into close contact with a diagnosed case via the contact tracing process. The HSE will contact all relevant persons where a diagnosis of COVID-19 is made. The instructions of the HSE should be followed and staff and pupil confidentiality is essential at all times.

Thanks to all parents and guardians for your ongoing cooperation during the current pandemic.

Kind regards,

Tomás O'Dowd.
Principal.