**Scoil Bhríde**

*Nurney, Co. Kildare*

*Telephone: (045) 526767*

***www.nurneyns.com***

[***sbnurney@gmail.com***](mailto:sbnurney@gmail.com)

8th September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!**

**IN ORDER TO KEEP YOUR CHILD’S SCHOOL OPEN, STAFF AVAILABLE AND TO PROTECT OUR MOST VULNERABLE PUPILS, WE NEED TO KEEP SICKNESS AND COVID-19 OUT.**

**IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL, PLEASE DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL.**

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOU CHILD TO OUR SCHOOL IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY**

* a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
* any symptoms of COVID-19 such as
* a new cough
* loss or changed sense of taste or smell
* shortness of breath
* an existing breathing condition that has recently become worse
* sore throat
* headaches
* diarrhoea
* been in [close contact](https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/contact-tracing/close-casual-contact/) with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19
* been living with someone who is unwell and may have COVID-19
* returned from another country in the last 14 days

**WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN!**

**WHILST RESTRICTIONS ARE LIFTING IN SOCIETY, THE REALITY IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS IS VERY DIFFERENT.**

**THE MAJORITY OF OUR PRIMARY SCHOOL POPULATION IS UNVACCINATED IN PACKED ENCLOSED SPACES.**

**TO STAY SAFE THIS WINTER FROM THIS HIGHLY INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND ANY NEW VARIANTS, WE NEED TO KEEP FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES WHICH HAVE SERVED OUR SCHOOL SO WELL TILL NOW.**

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO PLAY YOUR PART.**

**New pupils in our school**

**Best wishes to all the new boys and girls who have joined our school. We extend a warm welcome to:**

Elijah, Megan, Senan, Oliver, Dominika, Jack, Seán, Caoimhe, Giovanni, Amelia, Brian, Heloisa, Isadora, Grace, Ben, Brody, Faye, Marcella, Lisa, Braden, Tyler, Zuzanna and Nathan.

**Dates for your diary**

* **Welcome back to school mass – postponed till further notice; risk assessment pending**
* School Photographer – **postponed till further notice; risk assessment pending**
* School Book Fair – **postponed till further notice; risk assessment pending**
* 4th Class Annual Cycle Safety Training Course – **postponed till further notice; risk assessment pending**

**Swimming**

**Swimming classes for 2nd to 6th class this year is postponed till further notice due to COVID-19**

**School Playground extension update**

In **2015** the School applied to the Department of Education, under its *Summer Works Scheme*, for funding to extend our play yard space. In December 2019 we finally secured the funding to double our play yard space. The tendering process for project consultant completed in the Spring just gone, the design has been finalised and currently the hired consultant is tendering for the construction process. We are really looking forward to ground work beginning before the Winter.

**School Pupil Insurance**

**You will receive from the school a Pupils Personal Accident Insurance Form. This is an optional insurance scheme offered by Allianz insurance. The cost for pupil insurance for school activities is €6 and for 24 hour cover is €8. If you wish to partake in the scheme please do one of the following:**

* **Fill in the form, ticking either the school activities option or ticking the 24 hour cover option and send it back with your cash or cheque payment to the class teacher *by 3pm Friday September 24th***
* **Fill in the form, ticking either the school activities option or ticking the 24 hour cover option, return it to the class teacher and pay online *(by 3pm Friday September 24th)* following the payment access link sent to you on your mobile device. On your online payment page you will be offered the choice of paying for either the school activities option or paying for the 24 hour cover option. Just tick the one relevant to you.**
* **If you have already paid online just fill in the form ticking either the school activities option or ticking the 24 hour cover option and return it to the class teacher *by 3pm Friday September 24th***

**Child Protection**

**From Monday September 13th we ask all parents/guardians to allow their child (including all new junior infants) enter through the green fence gate unaccompanied at the morning drop of time**.

School staff will be there seeking that this request is carried out. This will allow us to monitor with ease any unwanted and unsupervised adult access to your child. If you wish to remain outside the new yard gate with your child till the bell goes at 9:20am that is fine too. Thanks for your co-operation.

**All parents/visitors entering the school building must report to the school office/Principal to inform staff of your presence. All parents/visitors must not enter the school play yard during school hours without permission, please report to the school office/Principal. All visits are currently being curtailed in as much as is possible in order to limit the transmission of any possible disease.**

**Beginning Monday September 13th, a teacher will generally stand at the fence gate in the morning to:**

* Prevent pupils leaving the school premises without permission
* To manage adult access to the children’s play area**. In accordance with National Child Protection and Safety standards ‘no member of the adult public’ should have unauthorized access to the school yard or the school building and therefore unsupervised access to other children**. Adults are putting both themselves and the other children at risk regarding child protection. These standards are followed by every childcare facility and club dealing with young people across the country. Primary schools are no different. If adults did, they (a) may place themselves at risk in terms of accusation in terms of possible interpretation of words and actions and (b) place the school in an unfair position of possible neglect of pupil safety and welfare. In a recent Irish case, an adult who accessed a busy morning school yard without authorization was accused by a pupil of inappropriate touching and conversation. As required by child protection law the school was obligated to report the matter and all parties therefore became involved in a HSE Child and Family Agency investigation. The HSE found there to be no case to answer in this instance however.

The bottom line is that everyone loses. So please allow the pupils their own space, where all other business, no matter how urgent you think it may be, can be dealt with by the teacher at the fence gate or in the school office and building. Remember ***“an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”.***

**Code of Behaviour Policy**

In light of Covid-19, the school’s Code of Behaviour Policy has been reviewed and updated. It can be viewed or downloaded from our school website at <https://www.nurneyns.com/policies>

**Nut Allergy**

**Just a reminder that we have pupils in our school with a nut allergy. For that reason*, our entire school is a nut free zone* (and that includes all forms of chocolate spread). Thank you for your continued vigilance in this matter.**

**Good Hygiene Practice**

To reduce the spread of germs in our school please find attached a HSE pamphlet for school parents on how to prevent the spread of infection, mrsa, germs etc and a description of good hand washing technique.

**School office opening hours**

* *11 – 1pm (Mon-Fri) and 1.30pm – 3pm (Mon-Thurs)*
* Sat-Sun: *Closed*

**Online payments**

If you have not received any link for paying for items online, please let the school office know your child’s name and class and what online payment you wish to make and a new online link will be sent to you.

***Wednesday Note and school information also available***

***on* www.nurneyns.com**

***Thank you for your co-operation with the above.***

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**Vinny Thorpe – Principal**

*(Doctoral student) M.Ed (SL), MA.Comp.Mus, H.Dip.Prim.Ed, H.Dip.Mus.Tech, P.Grad.Dip.Ed.St(SEN), B.Mus.Ed(H.Dip.Ed), Dip.Mus.Ed, T.Dip.ICT*