

Junior Infants – the first month of school

First Day of School – August 31st 2020

The first day of school is a memorable day for everyone and we want this year to be no different. It is a day full of excitement (and nerves) and it is one of the highlights of our school calendar. We are looking forward to welcoming your child to Scoil Mochaomhóg Naofa and we hope the first day of school will be the start of many happy years ahead for your child.

We know that this may be an anxious time for parents. Please contact us at any stage if you have any questions. You can contact us by email (office@scoilmochaomhog.ie) or by telephone **(0504) 444 66**

We are putting the following measures in place to facilitate drop off and collection on an interim basis. These measures will be reviewed at the end of September 2020.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL ONLY

ARRIVAL

- **Group A: Arrive at school at 9:40am**
- **Group B: Arrive at school at 10am**

- Parents are welcome to bring their child into the front yard (using the **main front gate, turnstile on the right hand side.**)
- The class teacher (Ms Cussen) will greet each family individually on the front school yard. Parents will have an opportunity to take photographs in the yard and when this is completed, Ms Cussen will accompany your child to the classroom.
- Unfortunately parents may not bring their child to the classroom but if the goodbye is difficult, parents are welcome to wait on yard until their child settles in the classroom (whilst maintaining social distance from other families and staff).
- Once the parent/guardian is satisfied that the drop off is completed, they are asked to leave the school grounds (via **main front gate, middle gate.**)
- We have divided the class into two groups to limit congregating on yard but there may be slight delays during drop off.

AFTERNOON COLLECTION

- **Group A: Depart school at 11:20am**
- **Group B: Depart school at 11:30am**

- Parents enter the school grounds using the **main front gate, turnstile on the right hand side.**

- A maximum of 10 adults may wait on the yard at any one time. If there are 10 adults on yard, please wait outside the school grounds until a space becomes available.
- Parents stand at vacant collection point on yard (signposted) when waiting for child to exit the school.
- Once your child exits the school, please leave the school grounds using the **main front gate, turnstile on the left hand side,** without delay.

Staff will be on hand to assist with drop off and collection for the initial days of school.

Standard School Day

Tuesday September 1st – Friday September 11th

Junior Infant children finish school at 12:30pm for the first two weeks of school. They may be collected from school from 12:30pm – 12:35pm daily

Monday September 14th – onwards

Junior Infant children may be collected from 1:50pm – 2pm daily

ARRIVAL

Morning Drop Off

School doors will open at 9:10am to receive pupils. Pupils should arrive between 9:10am and 9:20am. All classes will commence at 9:20am.

- Parents/guardians/responsible adult accompany the child into the front school yard. A one way system will operate.
- Enter the school yard using the **main front gate, turnstile on the right hand side.**
- Follow the path to the front door – the child enters through the main front door and the parent leaves the school grounds using the **main front gate, middle gate.**
- Unfortunately, parents may not enter past the front door of the school.
- *If you need to pass a message to the teacher, please email the teacher at jcussen@scoilmochaomhog.ie before school commences each morning or telephone Karen (school secretary) on 0504 444 66.*

AFTERNOON COLLECTION

- A ten minute window for collection will operate on an interim basis. Parents may collect children between 1:50pm and 2pm. Children must be collected by an approved collector (specified by parents).
- Parents enter the school grounds using the **main front gate, turnstile on the right hand side.**
- A maximum of 10 adults may wait on the yard at any one time. If there are 10 adults on yard, please wait outside the school grounds until a space becomes available.

- Parents stand at vacant collection point on yard (signposted) when waiting for child to exit the school.
- Once your child exits the school, please leave the school grounds using the **main front gate, turnstile on the left hand side**, without delay.

General Information

- On the **first day of school**, children should bring their school bag containing their lunch and drink only. They do not need to bring any other materials on the first day of school.
- On the **second day of school**, children should bring their school bag containing their lunch and drink, along with a plastic bag (labelled with the child's name) containing their school materials – pencils, colours, books etc. These materials will be kept in school.
- On the first day of school your child will be shown different routines for storing their bags, coats and lunchboxes. They will also be made familiar with the location of the toilets and we will practise the routines for asking to use the toilet and waiting their turn. We will also practise all routines for moving about the classroom and lining up. Your child will have plenty of practise at this.
- Please practise opening and closing your child's lunchbox and drink bottle with them. Also please ensure they are able to open everything in their lunchbox. Due to the current circumstances it is very important that your child can do this independently.
- Please ensure your child is able to close their shoes as necessary. Slip on or velcro shoes where possible are recommended for the infant classes.
- Your child will be sitting within a group, these groups will be allocated on a random basis and this will be their group until mid term at the earliest - this is in line with Government guidance. We will use these groups for all group based activities as far as possible.
- In the infant classroom a lot of our learning is done through play and as part of this we use a time called Aistear. The children will have an opportunity to play in their groups at different stations throughout the week. This will be completed on a themed basis and will link into many curricular areas. A cleaning schedule will be in place for all toys to ensure they are all safe to play with.
- Please ensure that all your child's belongings are labelled clearly - including their coats, jumpers, pencils and whiteboard markers.
- You'll find lots of tips and advice on starting school online at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a8d8f-ready-for-school/>