

## Scoil Náisiúnta Chaisleáin Uí Liatháin

Re. Physical distancing etc. on the reopening of our school.

(10ú Lúnasa 2020)

A Thuismitheoirí, a chairde,,

We are currently working on upgrading our procedures and routines within the school to ensure that there is as much physical distancing as is possible in our building when we return. 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:**

*(i) 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. Within the bubbles, children will be organised into pods, particularly in the junior end of the school, (i.e. Jnr Inf. – Rang 2). A pod is a group of children (4/5/6) who will sit together and who will stay in their pod while in the bubble or classroom.

*(ii) Decreasing Interaction.* This will be achieved by decreasing the potential for children from different bubbles or classrooms to interact. Bubbles will have different mid-morning and lunch-time access to the playground. We will explain these new routines to the children on returning to school, emphasising safety at all times.

While we are looking forward to welcoming all our pupils back to school, we remind parents 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, as per the DES guidelines. Children who have travelled from countries not on the Green List should **not** attend school during the 14 day self-isolation period.

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 and coughing. We would be grateful if you could also emphasise safe behaviour in this regard to your child at home as part of the preparation for returning to school.

Our aim remains to reopen the school in an orderly safe manner while reassuring the children and making them feel comfortable, safe and relaxed with their friends in the new school environment. This will be achieved by all of us working towards this common goal.

Further information & guidance will issue over the coming weeks on the reopening of our school.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Anne Fay  
(Cathaoirleach - An Bord Bainistíochta)

Nelius de Róiste  
(Príomhoide)

**P.S.** Please note that Supervised Study (Rang 1-6) from 3.00 – 4.00 pm will **NOT** continue in the school for the foreseeable future due to Covid-19.