

**Scoil na Croise Naofa**  
**Geashill NS**  
**Geashill, Co. Offaly, R35 W253.**  
**057 9343754**  
[geashillnsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:geashillnsoffice@gmail.com)  
[www.geashillns.ie](http://www.geashillns.ie)  
**Roll No. 091911**  
**Registered Charity No. 20204543**

**Principal: Mícheál Hyland**

**Deputy Principal: Marie Kearns**

---

26<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents,

The Board of Management and School Staff are looking forward to welcoming all our pupils and parents back to school for the 2020/2021 school year on Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup>.

We are satisfied that we have control measures in place to ensure that this will be a safe reopening. It will take some time for all of us to get used to the “new circumstances” as we become familiar with the new routines and procedures designed to keep everyone safe and to prevent the spread of the virus. There will, undoubtedly, be some unforeseen challenges and we will deal with these as they arise.

We would like to thank you for your co-operation to date and look forward to working with you as we assist the children adapt to the necessary changes.

Our Arrangements for Morning Drop off and Evening Collection were published last week and can be viewed at this link. <https://www.geashillns.ie/wp/wp-content/uploads/DropoffPickupFinal.pdf>  
Please make yourself familiar with these arrangements and remember at all times to keep a safe distance of 2m between yourself and others.

I now want to give you more information on some school procedures when we return.

### **School Bags, School Books & Lunch Boxes**

- Children should bring all their school books, copies and pencil cases with them on Tuesday. All will be kept in school for the time being.
- Lunch boxes are to be used as normal, brought in to school and home again each day in the school bag.

### **Homework**

- There will be no homework for September.
- As we all settle back into school life this will promote wellbeing and hopefully reduce any anxiety and stress at home.
- We will let you know our homework plan before the end of September.

### **Hand Washing and Sanitisation**

- There will be an increased emphasis on hand washing and hand sanitisation this year.
- Over 20 Sanitiser dispensers have been installed throughout the school and in all classrooms.
- Paper towel dispensers have also been installed in all bathrooms and at classroom sink areas.

## **Uniform**

- School uniform should be worn as usual.
- Please make every effort to keep it clean.

## **Face Coverings**

- Staff will be wearing masks/face coverings where a distance of 2m cannot be maintained.
- Children are currently not required to wear masks or face coverings but are allowed to if parents wish. Please let me know if your child will be wearing a mask/face covering.

## **Communication**

- As always we want to keep good lines of communication between home and school.
- Please ensure we have your correct contact details.
- All meetings/phone discussions with teachers will be by pre-arranged appointment only.
- Parents should first call the office at 057 9343754 before leaving in a forgotten lunch box or if a child needs to be collected early.
- All class teachers will set up a Class Dojo account which will allow for very good two way communication between teachers and parents.
- You will be welcome to email your child's teacher also.
- Our website [www.geashillns.ie](http://www.geashillns.ie) will be regularly updated with the most up to date school information.
- Our Twitter account @GeashillNS is also worth a follow

## **Dealing with a Suspected Case in School**

- If your child develops symptoms during the school day, they will be brought to a separate room to other students.
- Their temperature will be taken.
- Parents will be contacted to collect the child.
- Parents should contact their GP who will advise the next steps to be taken.

## **School Response to a Confirmed Covid - 19 Case**

- The HSE will inform any staff or parents of children 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 pupil and staff confidentiality is essential at all times.

The three points above are taken directly from the Dept. of Education guidance to schools and will be strictly followed in the event of a confirmed case.

## **When to keep your child at home and phone your GP**

Do not send your child to school or childcare if any of the following is true.

Your child has:

- a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- any other common [symptoms of coronavirus](#) - a new cough, loss or changed sense of taste or smell, or shortness of breath
- been in [close contact](#) with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus
- been living with someone who is unwell and may have coronavirus

We are asking parents to check your child's temperature each morning before leaving for school.

## **When it's okay to send your child to school**

It's usually okay to send your child to school if they:

- only have nasal symptoms, such as a runny nose or a sneeze
- do not have a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more (as long as their temperature has not been lowered by taking any form of paracetamol or ibuprofen)
- do not have a cough
- have not been in [close contact](#) with anyone who has coronavirus
- do not live with anyone who is unwell and may have coronavirus
- have been told by a GP that their illness is caused by something else, that is not coronavirus. Your GP will tell you when they can return to school or childcare.
- have got a negative ('not detected') coronavirus test result and have not had symptoms for 48 hours

More detailed information for parents on all of this can be found at this link and I am asking all parents to look at it and become familiar with it: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/>

## **Teaching and Learning**

As a staff, we are very aware that the children have been away from school since March 12th. We appreciate the time and effort that went into Home Learning, and we recognise the challenges that Home Learning presented for all families.

Each child will be in a different place in relation to his/her learning, and we wish to assure you that staff will take that into consideration when planning for Teaching and Learning during the 2020/2021 school year.

The Department of Education and Skills has published Curriculum guidelines for us, and we ask you to trust our experience and professional expertise as we work with all the children during the return to school.

## **And Finally**

It is very understandable that there is a heightened level of anxiety and worry as we get closer to reopening. My hope is that when we return on Tuesday all the usual kindness, laughter, fun, friendship and brilliant work that is at the heart of our school will continue to be seen by the whole school community.

Keep an eye on our website for any updates or extra information.

Thanks to those who have been in touch by phone or email. If you have any question or concern that hasn't been answered please contact me on 057 9343754 or at [geashillnsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:geashillnsoffice@gmail.com).

Yours Sincerely,

Mícheál Hyland