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 Scoil Angela,

 Ursuline Primary school,

 Thurles.

 Return to School Guide

 August 2020

**We are delighted to announce that Scoil Angela is re –opening on Thursday 27th August 2020. Following over 5 months’ closure owing to the Covid-19 pandemic we are thrilled and excited to welcome back our pupils and look forward to meeting and getting to know our new families.**

**It is no exaggeration to say that the past few months have been very difficult. The pandemic disrupted all aspects of our lives. However, we want to celebrate our re opening and we have a new plan for moving forward.**

 3R’s for the term ahead

Relationships, Routine and Resilience.

We intend to laugh, play, listen and connect with our pupils so that they are ready and able to learn their reading, writing and arithmetic again!

**We are preparing to open our school as follows:**

* **Staggered arrival and dismissal of pupils.**
* **We will stagger according to surnames of families.**

**Group 1 Families with surnames A to H**

**Group 2 Families with surnames I to N**

 **Group 3 Families with surnames O to Z**

**Thursday 27th August (traditional half day for all)**

**Senior Infants to 6th class**

**Group 1 arrives at 8.55am. Home at 11.55am.**

**Group 2 arrives at 9.15am. Home at 12.15pm.**

**Group 3 arrives at 9.30am. Home at 12.30pm.**

**Friday 28th August**

**Senior Infants**

**Group 1 arrives at 8.55am. Home at 1.25pm**

**Group 2 arrives at 9.15am. Home at 1.35pm**

**Group 3 arrives at 9.30am. Home at 1.45pm.**

 **1st to 6th class**

**Group 1 arrives at 8.55am. Home at 2.25pm**

**Group 2 arrives at 9.15am. Home at 2.35pm.**

**Group 3 arrives at 9.30am. Home at 2.45pm.**

**Junior Infants will be invited to come and meet their teacher and see their classroom on Wednesday 26th August. (In a staggered routine organised by your class teacher).**

**They will stay at home on Thursday 27th August and then start school on Friday 28th August when the rest of the school are settled.**

**Friday 28th August**

**Group 1 arrives at 8.55am. Home at 11.55am**

**Group 2 arrives at 9.15am Home at 12.15pm.**

**Group 3 arrives at 9.30am. Home at 12.30pm.**

**On the first morning, all class teachers will be outside in the school yard from 8.50am to receive the pupils as they arrive. The yard will be zoned with classes allocated to specific areas. The teachers will have class signs.**

**Please only arrive when it is your allocated time!**

**This will be reviewed after the first 2 days in an effort to narrow stagger times somewhat.**

 **What the parents need to know**

* **Our main aim is to prevent infection coming into our school and your help here is most important.**

**We are keeping up to date with all the latest guidelines and are adhering to the schools Covid Response Plan. If there are any changes, we will inform you straight away.**

* **Under no circumstances should any child be sent to school if they have a temperature, a cough of any kind, loss of smell/taste or any shortness of breath. If you are in any doubt about sending your child to school, please err on the side of caution.**
* **Have you travelled abroad? The directive from Government policy is that anyone arriving from non-green countries will be required to self-isolate for 14 days. Homework will not be provided by the school in this instance.**
* **No after school activities for the month of September. No Rosalie’s dance either. Our focus is on essential services initially.**
* **School Insurance and school expenses £30 (senior Infants to 6th class) should be put in an envelope for the class teacher.**

 **Measures to keep your child safe**

1. **All children are to be dropped in the school yard at their allocated drop off time. Please observe social distancing and wear a mask.**
2. **No parent admission to the school building unless an appointment has been arranged by contacting the school office. Communication between parent and teacher will be through telephone, e mail and homework journal.**
3. **Throughout the school, and in all classrooms there will be hand sanitizers which the children will be required to use.**
4. **Each class will be a bubble. This is our key control measure. Groups will be set up in each bubble. Pupils from Junior Infants to 2nd class are not expected to maintain social distancing.**
5. **Breaks will be staggered and bubbles kept separate.**
6. **Children will be required to use their own resources i.e. scissors, stationary, glue sticks etc. We recommend having 2 pencil cases, one for home and the other to be left in school.**
7. **There will be no homework for the month of September. Books/copies to remain in school. Teachers will use September to familiarise all pupils with chosen distance learning platforms.**
8. **The focus of the school for September is very much on wellbeing and allowing children to readjust to school life. Remember our plan to foster relationships, routines and resilience!**
9. **Tracksuits should be worn every Monday, Wednesday and Friday by all pupils and uniforms on Tuesday and Thursday. This allows time for washing or airing.**
10. **Lunches will be eaten in the classroom. All lunch boxes must be washed daily. Please bring own water.**
11. **Surfaces and high frequency touch surfaces will be disinfected daily during lunch breaks with our fogging machine. Our two cleaners will do manual cleaning of all classrooms and bathrooms each evening.**
12. **All bathrooms are fitted with air dryers that will be maintained regularly. This is considered an acceptable alternative for hand drying by the Department of education. However, if your child is afraid of the noise of dryers please give them a face cloth in a wash bag for hand drying.**

**All bathrooms have hot water and soap.**

1. **If your child becomes ill in school with any of the symptoms of Covid-19 they will be immediately taken to an isolation room where they will remain until collected. They must be collected as soon as possible. Please ensure that contact details are up to date.**
2. **Adults in the school will observe social distancing. Should an outbreak occur, the school will follow the protocols of the HSE and DES.**
3. **Staff are not expected to wear PPE unless they cannot maintain a 2 metre distance. Visors will be provided to each staff member to use at their perusal.**
4. **All staff will participate in induction training provided by the Department prior to re- opening.**
5. **School contact tracing log in place.**
6. **Updated health and safety risk assessments.**
7. **The school has taken every measure to ensure that we are fully prepared for reopening.**

**Please allow your child to read the section below that has been written for them. In the case of smaller children please read it with them. We all need to work together to ensure we keep infection out and to stay safe as a school community. It’s not enough to re- open Scoil Angela, we must keep it open!**

 **We’re all in this together!**

**Regards,**

**Bridann**

 **Boys and girls check out our superhero signage in our bathrooms and along our corridors. Cian and Ciara are lonely; they need some friends!!**

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What the children need to know!

1. You must only come to school if you are feeling well. If you’re not feeling well, you must stay at home.
2. In the morning when you get to school, you can go straight to your teacher and they will take you to your classroom and sanitize your hands!
3. Your parents or minders won’t be allowed come into the school this year but you will be helped by the Principal and school staff so don’t worry!
4. Washing and sanitizing your hands is so important! Please remember to wash or sanitize before you eat and when you come in from the yard. There will be sanitizer in all the classrooms and your teacher will point these out to you. There is no need to bring your own sanitizer.
5. Unfortunately, you won’t be able to share with your friends this year so make sure you have your own pencils, rubbers etc. with your name on them.
6. To keep safe, your class will be your bubble. You will be able to sit with some of your friends so don’t panic about the time you are dropped to school; your teacher is keeping a seat for you beside some friends. It is very important that you stay with your class bubble in the playground.
7. We know some of you love to bring in things from home like toys, teddies etc. but this year you can only bring in things you need for school.
8. The teachers cannot wait to see you all back in Scoil Angela. All these changes will feel ok after a while. They are difficult for us too so we’ll help each other!
9. We are looking forward to having a great year no matter what!

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