Scoil San Treasa
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Nuachtlitir 2: 9th September 2020

Admission Policy

The Department of Education has issued new guidelines and procedures arising out of the **Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018**. In accordance with the **Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018,** Scoil San Treasa's new Admission Policy will become operative from 15th September 2020. The new Admission Policy and the Admission Notice will be published on the school website (www.sstreasa.ie) on 15th September 2020. Please note that as per the Admission Notice the school will **commence accepting applications** for admission to Junior Infants 2021 on **1st October 2020** and will **cease accepting applications** on **23rd October 2020.** Should you have already submitted an application for admission to Junior Infants in 2021 or 2022, please note that this unprocessed application will be returned to you in the next week and a new application must be submitted for your child as part of the new application process. A special word of thanks to all of the parents who submitted suggestions regarding the new Admission Policy.

Curricular PE & SPHE

The DES have advised that '*it is necessary for schools to prioritise certain aspects of the curriculum when the new term begins. Schools will need to re-orientate their work with the curriculum especially during the initial weeks of the first term as they give greater time and attention to areas such as Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE), Physical Education (PE), Language and Mathematics*'. (DES Return to School – Curriculum Guidance for Primary School Leaders and Teachers pg.15)

SPHE is always a very important part of our work here in school and all children will bring home their SPHE scrapbook and/or Mindful Matters pupil book every Tuesday. This is a practical way of heightening parent awareness of SPHE matters addressed in school and also facilitates parent/child discussion around these topics. It is good practice to regularly revise safety rules with children – personal safety with regard to going-home time, coming to school and when they are 'out and about' generally. **Next week's key focus will be on Healthy Eating**. For health and safety reasons, we request that nuts are not included in your child's school lunch. Please note, we cannot guarantee that the school will be a nut-free zone. It is important that parents of children who may have allergies/food intolerances ensure that their children are aware of the importance of not eating food other than that which they know to be safe.

It is planned that **PE** for all classes will take place outdoors (if possible) which will enable the children to engage in physical activity and maximise social distancing. In accordance with DES guidance it has been necessary to relocate Mr Ó Dómhnaill's 5th class to the school hall due to space constraints in the classroom. In the event of wet/cold weather, other options are currently being explored such as an alternative venue or PE class being rescheduled for another time each week.

Homework & Seesaw

From Monday next September 14th, there will be a return to a format of some 'written homework' for most classes. Unfortunately there has been a delay with the delivery of the school's homework notebook and we have been informed that these will be delivered early next week. In the meantime the children can note their homework in their 'homework copy'. Over the Summer holidays the school's subscription to Seesaw was upgraded to premium level and in the coming days your child will receive a sheet with Seesaw access details for this school year. All classes will have access to Seesaw in school and at home. Classwork or homework may be assigned on Seesaw for children who have to remain at home due to Covid 19 restrictions. Further information will be sent by your child's teacher in due course.

Sacraments – Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation

Great work has gone into the preparations for the Sacraments with the pupils, teaching staff, parish personnel and families contributing in many and varied ways. We wish the boys and girls in third class and their families every blessing as they prepare for the Sacrament of Penance on 17th September and the Sacrament of the Eucharist on September 26th. The boys and girls from last year's 6th class will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday September 19th.

We wish all of the children every blessing in their journey of faith, and commend all those who support them in their journey of faith in so many different ways - school, home, parish and beyond. Rath Dé oraibh go léir!

HPSC publications

The HPSC have published the following documents which may be useful.

- **'Isolation Quick Guide'** –applying to those aged greater than 3 months and up to 13th birthday – at this link.
- **'Covid-19 Assessment and decision making pathway for all children ≥ 3 months until completion of primary school'** – at this link.

Thank you

It is really great to see the boys and girls back at school, working so well and adapting with ease and confidence to their new routines – such as walking on the left, making their own way independently to their classroom in the mornings, and practising good hand hygiene. It is a lovely reminder to us all that children are remarkably resilient.

On behalf of the school community, thank you all most sincerely for your support and cooperation since the school has reopened – especially at the drop off and collection times. Thank you for playing your part in helping to keep all in our school community safe and healthy, by, for example, collecting your child promptly from the school when unwell … or keeping your child at home if unwell. Míle buíochas! Let's continue to follow all public health guidelines, and to work together to help ensure that we all stay safe and well.

Le buíochas

Frances Mullin