



Back to School Updates August 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope that this finds you all well. Please read the school updates below carefully in advance of the school reopening on Tuesday next 30th August.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Barry Whelan (Principal)

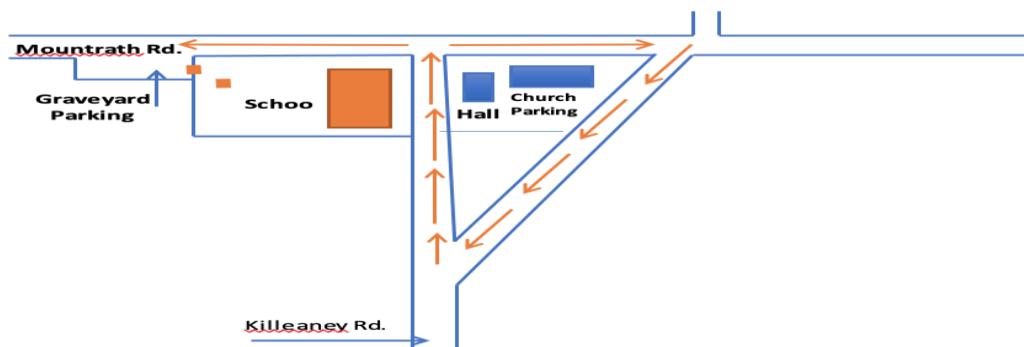
Opening and Closing Times etc.

The school will reopen for all pupils on **Tuesday 30th August at 8:50 a.m.** **N.B A reminder that new official opening times will be as follows:**

- 9:00a.m to 1:40p.m for Junior and Senior Infants;
- 9:00a.m to 2:40p.m for 1st class to 6th class.

The school doors will open at **8:50 a.m** each morning to receive pupils. **N.B No pupils are to be dropped to/at the school prior to this time of 8:50a.m.** The Board of Management of Scoil Fionntáin Naofa cannot accept any responsibility for pupils who are dropped to school prior to 8:50a.m on any day. We very much appreciate your cooperation in this regard.

A reminder of our one way and set-down and parking procedure around the triangle, as outlined below. This must be adhered to on a daily basis as a means of safeguarding all members of the school community:



When pupils arrive in the morning they should make their way directly to their own classroom using the designated entrance:

- Ms. Burnell's Junior Infants, Senior Infants & 1st Class should enter their classroom using the entrance at the side of same. *A reminder that the Junior Room will now be in the new classroom*
- Mrs. Cahill's 2nd, 3rd & 4th class should enter using the new front door i.e under the sign/red writing '*Fáilte go dtí Scoil Fionntáin Naofa, Seanchua*';
- Mr. Whelan's 5th & 6th class should enter using the old front door next to the bin store;
- Miss. Fisher's Sonas Class will for the moment (until the building works are complete) enter using the new front door as outlined above.

Formal instruction commences at 9 a.m sharp and all pupils must be seated in class by that time.

Pupils are to be collected at **1:40 p.m sharp for those in the Infant Classes** and **2:40p.m sharp** for those in 1st to 6th Class.

Parents/guardians should wait outside the school wall for their children in the evenings. N.B Parents of those in the Junior Room should walk towards the main gate and collect their children by the hand when they emerge from the school grounds in the evenings.

Child Safeguarding

Our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was reviewed and ratified at the meeting of the Board of Management of the school on Thursday night last 25th August 2022.

The Safeguarding Statement names:

- Barry Whelan as Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for Child Safeguarding;
- Jonathan Watson as Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL) for Child Safeguarding;

In the event that you have a Child Safeguarding concern or query, you should come directly to me in the first instance, and in my absence to Mr. Watson.

Staff and Contact Details

The staff's contact details are outlined below:

- Barry Whelan (Principal/5th & 6th Class Teacher)
principalshanahoens@gmail.com
- Johnny Watson (Deputy Principal/SEN Coordinator and fulltime Special Education Teacher)
j.wastonshanahoens@gmail.com
- Kris Cahill (Assistant Principal 2/2nd, 3rd & 4th Class Teacher)
kcahillshanahoens@gmail.com
- Gillian Burnell (Junior & Senior Infants & 1st Class Teacher)
g.burnellshanahoens@gmail.com
- Rachel Fisher (Sonas Class Teacher)
r.fishershanahoens@gmail.com
- Kay O'Connor (Shared Special Education Teacher)
k.oconnorshanahoens@gmail.com
- Deirdre Bergin (School Secretary)
shanahoens@gmail.com

If you wish to speak to/communicate with your child's teacher regarding any matter, you can contact them using the designated email addresses outlined above and arrange a follow up appointment with them, if required.

New Pupils

A very warm welcome to our nine new Junior Infant pupils, three new pupils in 6th class and two new pupils in our Sonas Class. We hope that they are very happy during their time in Scoil Fionntáin Naofa and we look forward to getting to know them all in the weeks ahead. Our enrolment for the school year 2022-2023 is 70.

Absences

All pupil absences from school must be logged as soon as possible using the Aladdin Connect app. These should be logged as early as possible on the **first morning** of your child's absence from school and on each morning thereafter until they return to school.

School Collection

If your child is being collected from school by a different person than usual on any given day, this should be communicated to your child's class teacher via email in advance of same happening i.e that morning.

School Tracksuit

A full school tracksuit must be worn to school each day. This includes

- A navy tracksuit top with the school crest;
- A red polo shirt;
- Navy tracksuit bottoms;
- Navy school shorts on any day that you deem the weather to be warm enough to wear same. A reminder that only the specific school shorts may be worn. These are available in Fyffes in Abbeyleix.

N.B All items of school clothing should be labelled as teachers cannot accept any responsibility for items of clothing that aren't labelled and which go missing.

Maintenance of Grounds

Many thanks must go to Board of Management Chairperson Michéal Delaney for cutting the grass and strimming the school grounds all throughout the year. Micheál does this work in a voluntary capacity and his efforts on behalf of the school in this regard are greatly appreciated. Míle buíochas Micheál.

Summer Works

The following maintenance works were completed over the Summer months:

- Painting of the Senior Classroom/Mr. Whelan's room;
- Painting of the office and staffroom;
- Powerwashing and painting of all of the boundary walls by Abbeyleix Community Employment Scheme;
- Painting of the gates at the front and side of the school by Abbeyleix Community Employment Scheme;
- Powerwashing of areas of the school yard by Abbeyleix Community Employment Scheme;
- Playground markings i.e basketball court, Snakes and Ladders and four large hopscotches. This work was completed by Topline Markings in Roscommon and the works were fully funded by the Community Activities Fund from Laois County Council;
- Two large planters for outside the front gate, the same as those in the church grounds. These were provided by Irish Recycled Products and

were fully funded by the Community Activities Fund from Laois County Council;

- Replacement of the nets on the goalposts in the field. The new nets were also funded by the Community Activities Fund from Laois County Council;
- Installation of security fencing with a lockable gate around our new soft playground area. We will hold a *'Tractor, Truck and Vintage Run'* in September to pay for the fencing.

