



Gaelscoil an Chaistil

5, Bóthar na hÁithe, Baile an Chaistil, BT54 6QQ

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A thuismitheoir, a chara,

Tá súil agam agus ag m'fhoireann go bhfuil tú féin agus an clann slán sábháilte. Cnóthnaíonn muid na páistí go mór agus tá muid ag dúil le fáilte a chur rompu ar ais ar scoil. De réir mar a thagann an scoilbhliain seo chun deiridh, tá muid ag ullmhú don scoilbhliain úr. Thíos uaidh seo gheobhaidh tú cuid sonraí.

My staff and I hope that you and the family are all safe and sound. We miss the children and look forward to welcoming them back to school. As a school year like no other draws to a close, preparations are underway for the new school year.

Our regular summer clean is taking place and teachers are carrying out end of year tasks and beginning to prepare their classrooms for the new year. The Department of Education is continuing to update us and we are putting restart plans in place.

The plan for classes this year is as follows – Ráichéal will be teaching in our Naíscóil; Pádraigín will be teaching Rang 1 and 2; Seanán will be going on maternity leave at the start of the year and a new teacher called Mary will be teaching Rang 3 and 4; Brídín will be teaching Rang 5 and 6 and Grace will be teaching Rang 7. The classroom assistants will be placed throughout the school. Juliana, Seáinín and Peter will continue in their current roles.

Restarting the school will be an important moment for staff, parents and children. At the moment it is clear that when all schools restart, it will not be the same as previous years. Social distancing requirements will mean that the number of children in each classroom will have to be restricted. Not all children will be at school every day.

There will be a blend of learning in school and learning at home. Most children will be timetabled to come to school two days a week and to carry out school work at home on the other three days. When children are in school, their teacher will prepare them for a period of learning at home. This will include online learning through Google Classroom; workbooks and reading books to complete at home; Accelerated Reader and online tasks from Seomra Nuachta and Newsdesk.

Currently, Rang 7 children are due to return on Monday 24 August, with Rang 1 to 6 returning in September. We will most likely be organizing a staggered start and end to the school day in order to avoid groups gathering at the school gates. This will be finalized in August and we will contact you. We haven't yet been given full guidance for our pre-schoolers and will be in touch with our naíscóil parents when we get this.

We are unaware at this stage about how school dinners and transport will be organized. Parents should continue to apply for these services. If you live more than 2 miles from the school, your child is entitled to a travel allowance - <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/home-to-school-transport>. To check if your child is eligible for free school meals and /or a uniform allowance, go to <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals/eligibility>. If you require any assistance with this, please contact me via email or text – gaelscoilanchaistil@gmail.com or 07969212524.

There will be no after school activities at this time.

Stationery: Pupils will be unable to share stationery items and we would ask you to provide the following for your child. Your child's name should be clearly labelled on all items.

Pencil case; Pencils; Colouring pencils

Rubber; Sharpener; Pritt stick; Scissors; Ruler

We understand that parents and pupils may have mixed emotions on the return to school. We will do our utmost to alleviate any concern or anxieties you may have. The staff are following the correct health guidelines and putting procedures in place to ensure that everyone in our school community is safe. We ask parents and pupils to help us in these endeavours by following our procedures as closely as possible. We will continue to review our procedures, in line with Department of Education and Public Health guidance, and will contact you later in the summer with the most up to date procedures for starting school and a date when your child will begin school.

On behalf of the governors and staff of the school, I wish you and your children a happy summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming our children back into school after the summer. Take care and stay safe.

Le gach dea-ghuí,
Brídín

Nóta Breise / Additional note

For Rang 3 to 7 the activities on Google Classroom will stay live during the summer, so that children can complete any tasks that they haven't yet done. If you need help accessing Google Classroom, please email me at gaelscoilanchaistil@gmail.com. No new articles will be uploaded to Seomra Nuachta or Newsdesk but the sites can still be accessed and articles in their Cartlann/Archive can be viewed. Cula4 will continue to run during the summer in the form of a fun camp – <https://www.cula4.com/ga/clair/campa-cula4/>

I have registered our school for continued access to Renaissance myON reading resources after 30 June – <https://readon.myon.co.uk> and BBC Bitesize will, I believe, continue to upload material. Seesaw is a live online platform and as such will not be updated during the summer months.

To log onto myON, follow these steps

www.myon.co.uk

School name – Gaelscoil an Chaistil

Username – gaelscoil954student

Password – read

Click on Sign In and enjoy reading a wide genre of books.