



## Junior Infants

September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are so looking forward to welcoming your children to Scoil Barra this September. It is a very exciting and special time for everyone, for children, parents and teachers.

This is an unusual year in that Covid-19 restrictions have and will change our usual routines somewhat. However, we want to assure you that the commitment, care, attention and enthusiasm of our wonderful staff remains the same. We are determined to give each child the same special start and warm welcome we are so proud of here in Scoil Barra.

Below are some guidelines and plans specific to Junior Infants this year:

### Day 1: Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>

As your child did not visit our school in June, as we do most years, we are going to arrange a short visit to the school for pupils on this day. The pupils will attend in a smaller group (14 pupils) for one hour. Group 1 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Group 2 from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Your teacher will contact you via email to let you know which group you are in and what time to attend.

On this day pupils will wear school tracksuit, but do not need a school bag or lunch.

Please come to the Infant door on the Infant yard. Balloons will mark this door. We would ask parents to please respect social distancing in this area and leave 2m between adults. Unfortunately, due to public health advice, adults will not be allowed into the school building. Through staff and parents working together, we hope to encourage as much independence for the children as possible. Staff members will meet pupils at the door and guide them to their classroom.

In the afternoons, we will try to arrange our collection routine in a similar manner to the 'Collection Routine' below.

Infants will always arrive and leave the premises through Gate 1, and this will be clearly marked.

Group 1: Drop-off time will be at 10.00 a.m. Please do not arrive on school grounds before 9.50 a.m. Collection Time will be at 11.00 a.m. Please do not arrive on school grounds for collection before 10.50 a.m. as there will be other pupils using the yard up to this time.

Group 2: Drop-off time will be at 12 noon. Please do not arrive on school grounds before 11.50 a.m. Collection Time will be at 1.00 p.m. Please do not arrive on school grounds for collection before 12.50 p.m. as there will be other pupils using the yard up to this time.

## Day 2: Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>

All children will attend school from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon on this day.

Pupils will use the same Infant door as on Tuesday. Please do not arrive at the school grounds before 9.50 a.m. Again, staff will guide pupils to their classroom from the infant door on this morning.

Pupils will wear school tracksuit. Pupils will bring a small lunch (snack), drink and their schoolbag on this day.

Pupils will be collected from the Infant yard, following the arrangements of the 'Collection Routine' below.

## Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September to Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> of September

For the following 7 school days, all Junior Infants will attend school from 9.10 a.m. to 12.10 p.m. Please do not arrive on school grounds before 9.00 a.m. as all classes from Senior Infants to 6<sup>th</sup> class will be entering the school grounds up to that time.

On these days, please line up with your child on the 'dots' on the yard. We would ask parents, if possible, not to come up to the doors on these days, just to encourage a little more independence. Again, staff will come to the yard to help to guide pupils to their classroom.

From Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> of September pupils may bring their lunch, drink and PPE Pack (Ziploc bag with facecloth for drying hands) in their schoolbag. Toilet paper, soap and sanitiser will be provided in school.

Pupils may be collected at 12.10 p.m., following the collection routine below. Please do not arrive on school grounds for collection prior to 12 noon.

## Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> of September to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> of September

Pupils will attend from 9.10 a.m. to 12.40 p.m. Please do not arrive on school grounds before 9.00 a.m. for drop off.

We will try to encourage pupils to move from a collection dot as independently as possible into the school building. Again, we are asking parents not to come up to the school doors on these days. Staff will be present supervising and encouraging pupils and, of course, if any pupils are finding it tricky, we will be there to support them.

## From Monday 21<sup>st</sup> of September onwards

All Junior Infants will begin school at 9.00 a.m. This will bring Junior Infants in line with the arrival routine of all other pupils in the school. The school gates will open from 8.45 a.m. Parents may drop pupils to the 'drop and go' zone in the yard any time between 8.45 a.m. and 9.00 a.m. Again, we would encourage pupils to move independently from the yard to the infant door and into their classroom.

School will finish at 1.40 p.m. for Junior Infants via the 'Collection Routine' below.

Children will be asked to bring two lunches from Monday, the 21<sup>st</sup> of September. One 'small lunch' or snack to be eaten at 10.40 a.m., one 'big lunch' to be eaten at 12.50 p.m.

## Collection Routine

At collection time, Ms. Moloney's class will come out of the right-hand door, near the field.

At collection time, Ms. Moriarty's class will come out of the left-hand door, the usual infant door, on the office side.

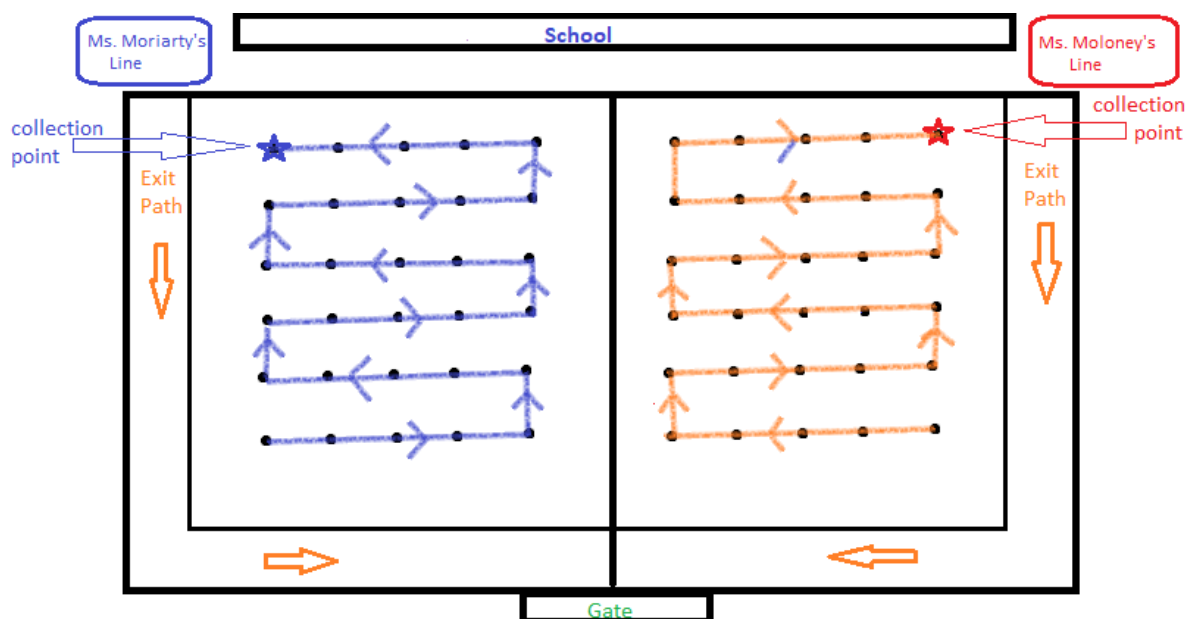
The yard has been divided into two sections. Each section has rows of dots and arrows at 2-meter intervals. There is an exit path marked down the side of each yard also. We would ask adults to line up on the dots as they arrive. The first dot will be clearly marked. This is arranged in an 's' shape, in a similar way to the queuing systems at the airport.

When your child's line arrives out on the yard, your child's teacher will send the pupil to the adult at the first dot. It may help if you say your child's name to the teacher. The queue of collecting adults will continue to move up in the order that adults have arrived and lined up in. Please be patient while waiting in line at collection time.

We would ask that, once you have collected your child, adults move directly off the yard via the exit path at the side. Please do not wait or congregate on the schoolyard after collection.

For our usual, 1.40 p.m. finish time we would ask that parents do not arrive before 1.35 p.m. as other classes are using the yard until that time.

Please see the image below for collection arrangements.



### Summary

Date(s)	Times	Drop	Schoolbag	Lunch
Tuesday, Sept 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00 – 11.00 <b>or</b> 12noon–1.00 2 Groups	To infant door	No	No
Wednesday, Sept 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00 – 12 noon	To infant door	Yes	A small snack
Thursday, Sept 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Friday, Sept 11 <sup>th</sup>	9.10 – 12.10	To infant yard (just Junior Infants)	Yes	One lunch, plus drink
Monday, Sept 14 <sup>th</sup> – Friday, Sept 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.10 – 12.40	To infant yard (just Junior Infants)	Yes	One lunch, plus drink
From Monday, Sept 21 <sup>st</sup> onwards	9.00 – 1.40	To infant yard (with senior infants)	Yes	Two lunches, plus drink