



# Shanballymore National School

*Shanballymore, Mallow, Co. Cork.*

Phone: 022 25611

E-mail: shanballymorens@gmail.com

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## September Newsletter 2020



Welcome back to school to all pupils, staff and parents. After what has been an extraordinary few month of lockdown and restrictions it is great that some normality is starting to come back to life again.

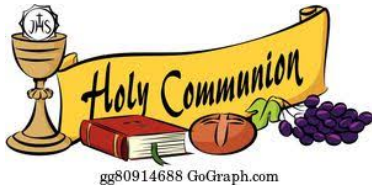
A big thank you to all the parents who assisted with the home schooling during the months the school was closed. Well done to all the children who were so diligent in their work during this unusual time.



A big Céad Míle Fáilte to our seven new infants. We hope they have many happy and enjoyable years in Shanballymore National School. A fond farewell to the 6<sup>th</sup>

Class of 2020, we hope you have settled in well to secondary school

As you would expect our pupils have adapted really well to the changes during the school day. They really understand the importance of good respiratory hygiene, hand washing and sanitising. They have settled into their pods and bubbles really well and have adapted to the different break times.



Congratulations to the children in 3<sup>rd</sup> Class who received their First Holy Communion on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September in Shanballymore Church. The children performed their duties excellently on the day. They all had a great day. Thank you to Fr Heffernan, the teachers and Parents Association for making this such a special day.

The date for next years First Holy Communion is 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021. This is a provisional date. You will be informed of any changes. The date for Confirmation has not been announced yet. You will be informed as soon as the school is notified.



The school has had Pat Spratt, GAA coach, training the children the skills of Gaelic Football for the past five weeks. The children really enjoy this exercise and the opportunity to develop their footballing skills. The children will return to wearing uniforms on Tuesdays from next week. Monday Wednesday & Friday tracksuit days, Tuesday & Thursday uniform days.



A big thank you to the Parents Association for purchasing 25 new Samsung tablets for the school. These are an invaluable resource for the pupils of the school.

**Seesaw:** All the children should be familiar with seesaw at this stage. The school is using seesaw as a precaution in the event of lockdown. It is a way of sending homework to the children.

**School Improvement Plan.** All schools are obliged to continue work on School Improvement Plan following lockdown last March. We will be focusing on Oral language development and different writing styles in English. While in maths we will focus on problem solving. We will use local environment to create a variety of maths trails which will have a clear problem-solving focus (Extending Patterns (Infants), Fractions (1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>), Decimals (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>) and percentages (5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>))

**Covid-19** Obviously with COVID-19 restrictions currently in place, visitors have very limited access to the school. If parents need to contact their child's class teacher please use the email address provided. The class teacher will respond by email or by phone call, whatever is appropriate. If your child is going to be late due to an appointment or if they have to attend an appointment during the day an email to the class teacher will suffice. The school uses a "Text-a Parent" service to communicate efficiently with all in the school community. We will be using this service regularly during the school year. To operate this system effectively we need your most up-to-date number, please. We do not share these numbers with any third party for any reason. If you have changed your number recently, please provide us with an up to date number by email. Again, please provide us with an up to date email address if you have not already done so.

Just a reminder of the guidelines on what to do if your child is feeling unwell. Pupils should not attend school if displaying any symptoms of Covid-19. The symptoms of Covid -19 are: (taken from DES Covid -19 response plan for Primary and Special Schools Section 5.1 Page 15)

-High temperature

-Cough

-Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties

-Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste

**Other symptoms** If your child has symptoms such as headaches or a sore throat, keep them at home for at least 48 hours. These are not common symptoms of COVID-19, but they could be a sign of another infection.

**Diarrhoea** If your child has diarrhoea, they should stay at home and not go to school until they have not had diarrhoea for 48 hours. The following HSE link has lots of information on what to do if your child has symptoms of Covid-19 <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/if-your-child-has-symptoms.html>

Please be aware that school supervision starts at **8:50am**. All classes begin at **9:00am**. Please ensure your child is in school before 9:am as late arrivals miss out on valuable learning time and can cause disruption to class. Children are not supervised before **8:50** in the morning. Classes for Junior finish at **1:35pm** and Senior Infant finish at **1:40pm**. Please remain in your cars until school doors open. These children must be collected on time by a parent or designated adult. School finishes for all other classes at **2:40pm**.

**Dropping off items:** Please ensure that your child has all the items they need when they are coming to school each morning. In the rare event that you need to drop lunch or another important item, please ring or email the school in advance of coming to the school. A closed plastic box is placed outside the front door. You can drop the forgotten item here. A member of staff will collect it and drop it into your child.

**Thank You:** Thank you to all the parents who have fully paid the book rental money and the voluntary contribution for this year. If any money is outstanding please drop it to the office at your earliest convenience.

**Absent Notes:** In accordance with Tusla (The Child and Family Agency) and Department of Education regulations all absences must have a written note of explanation signed by a parent or guardian. A verbal explanation is no longer sufficient.

**Mid-Term Break:** School will close for midterm break on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of October and reopen Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

