

Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

**Well done:** As we approach the end of our second week I want to extend a big well done to all members of our entire school community. We have made a wonderful start to our new school year. Routines are beginning to be re-established and we are all beginning to get used to our new normal.

**Systems and Routines:** As the days and weeks progress our routines and systems established to better ensure the health and safety of our school community will remain. Our system of staggered entry and exit times will continue. Please be aware that **Group A classes' start time is 8.50am and Group B classes' start time is 9.05am**. The gathering of parents and/or children at the gate is not permitted. Pupil's should not arrive to school more than 10 minutes before their start time. These measures, amongst others, are necessary in order for our school to be open. The co-operation of the entire school community is needed here. I thank you all for your understanding and support on this one.

**Illness:** If your daughter is unwell she should not come to school. As parents, we may feel bombarded with information with regard to signs and symptoms of Covid-19 and sometimes messages can be confusing. However the 'Isolation Quick Guide' which is available on the homepage of the school website ([www.stmarysnscobh.com](http://www.stmarysnscobh.com)) or from the PA facebook page is a handy document which outlines different condition scenarios and offers reliable advice on appropriate actions to be taken for each of the scenarios outlined. If you are ever in doubt of what action to take you should contact your GP by phone.

It is also important to note that, based on HSE advice, pupils should always be 48 hours symptom free before returning to school after any illness.

In my letter to parents last week, I outlined what happens when a child becomes ill at school and displays symptoms which may be consistent with Covid-19. The information that will be given to a parent/guardian when collecting their daughter if they present with Covid-19 symptoms is available to view on the website also.

All parents are reminded that reasons for absences should be recorded by parents on Aladdin Connect each day. Thank you for your cooperation here.

**Remote Learning Platform:** While no one wants the school/classes to close, as a school we must prepare for all eventualities. We have begun preparations for a situation should a class(es) be requested to work remotely from home. We will keep you updated as our remote learning plans progress.

**Priorities:** While there are so many changes at school, some things have remained the same. Meeting your daughter's needs and assisting her to reach her full potential continues to be our priority. Keeping everyone safe and well continues to be our priority. Looking after the wellbeing of all members of our school community continues to be our priority. In all that we do, we do our best. Your cooperation and support are vital for us to achieve our common goals.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Fiona O'Callaghan

Principal