

3rd September, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our first full week is almost complete. Sincere thanks to you all for rowing in with our new systems and routines.

It is wonderful to have all our pupils back in school. The children are readjusting to school life extremely well. No doubt they are tired as we approach the end of the week, but their smiling faces are ever present. We are very proud of our pupils- well done girls! Our new Junior Infants have all settled in remarkably well- not a single tear has been shed! They have taken the transition from home to school in their stride- well done girls!

This year, we all have a collective and individual responsibility to keep our school safe and open. I wish to remind all parents of the following important health and safety information:

- All parents are advised to check their daughter's temperature before they come to school each day.
- If your child has a cough, temperature, breathing difficulties or loss of taste/smell they should not come to school under any circumstances.
- If you have had reason to give your daughter Calpol/ Nurofen or other medicine, they should not be in school for 48 hours after they feel better as this can mask symptoms of Covid 19.
- If anyone in your household is unwell with the above symptoms or possible Covid 19, your daughter must not come to school until you have spoken to the GP and the GP confirms that you do not need to isolate.
- You are reminded not to take a chance and send your daughter to school if they feel unwell as this could potentially put the entire school at risk.
- If in any doubt, consult your GP.

The following is an outline of what happens in schools when a child becomes ill at school and displays symptoms which may be consistent with Covid-19:

- If a child displays symptoms which may be consistent with Covid-19, the school will contact the child's parent or guardian and ask them to collect their child as soon as possible.
- The child will be cared for appropriately by a staff member whilst they are waiting to go home.
- The isolation space (where the child will wait for their parent/guardian) will be cleaned and contact surfaces disinfected when vacated.
- The staff member who has cared for the child with symptoms during this time does not need to go home unless subsequently advised to by Public Health HSE.
- At this stage, no further action by the school is required.
- Schools have been advised that they should not inform other parents or staff members that a pupil or staff member has gone home due to their symptoms.
- Other pupils or staff do not need to be removed from class, including siblings or other household members.
- When the GP of the child has assessed the symptoms to be consistent with Covid-19 infection, e.g. fever OR a new cough, shortness of breath, deterioration of existing respiratory condition OR symptoms of aguesia or dysgeusia (essentially loss of or changes to the sense of taste) and the person is referred for a test, at this point the person becomes a suspected Covid 19 case and household members including siblings should be withdrawn from school by their parent or guardian.

- Where no evidence of Covid-19 is detected by the test, the child should remain at home only until she is clinically well enough to return to school (unless specifically requested by HSE to do otherwise).
- Household members can return to school immediately following the receipt by the parent or guardian or staff member of a “not detected” result.
- Where a test confirms Covid 19, the Medical Officer of Health will liaise directly with the school and will undertake a Public health risk Assessment to inform further actions and recommendations.
- The school will not inform the wider school population where a case of Covid 19 has been confirmed. Contacts of a confirmed case will be contacted by the HSE.

Mobile Phones: In an effort to protect health and safety of pupils and staff children are not permitted to bring unnecessary items with them from home to school. Our mobile phone policy needs further review as a result of restrictions that are necessary due to Covid-19. In the interim, children are strongly discouraged from bringing their mobile phones with them to school. I thank you all for your cooperation and understanding here.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Fiona O’Callaghan

Principal