



22nd October, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Level 5 Restrictions: Since my last correspondence the entire country has moved to Level 5 Covid-19 restrictions. As you all know, schools are set to remain open. We ask for your continued support and cooperation at this time. To ensure all our safety your attention is drawn to the following points:

- All parents/guardians are asked to wear a face covering when dropping and collecting their daughter(s). Face coverings are mandatory for all adults on school premises.
- Parents/guardians are asked to reduce their contact with others at the school gate. Congregating at the school gate is strictly prohibited.
- Children should arrive at their designated drop off time. Children should not arrive before their designated drop off time.
- If your child is in one of the following categories, they **should not attend school** –
 - Children who are generally unwell
 - Children who have been diagnosed with Covid-19
 - Children who have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19
 - Children who have a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
 - Children who have been in contact with a person who has a suspected case of Covid-19 and the outcome of the test is pending
 - Children with underlying health conditions who have been directed by a medical professional not to attend school
 - Children who have returned home after travelling abroad and must self-isolate for a period of 14 days

Return to School Declaration Form: After midterm break (from Monday, 2nd November) we will be introducing a Return to School Declaration Form which all parents/guardians will need to complete prior to their daughter returning to school after any absence. This will be filled in via Aladdin Connect (App or browser).

The following is an outline of how the system will work:

- If your daughter was marked absent today, at 3pm today will see the form appearing on your homepage of Aladdin Connect. If your daughter is returning to school tomorrow, you can complete it. If they are not returning tomorrow this can be ignored until they are ready to return.
- If your daughter is marked absent on a Friday, the form will only appear from 3pm on Sunday for you to fill in. This is to ensure the declaration is completed in as appropriate a time for your daughter's return to school as possible.
- The Return to School Declaration forms will appear for you to complete no matter what reason had been entered for your daughter's absence - unexplained, illness, holidays etc.

Distance Learning Questionnaire: Since thanks to all families who have completed the Distance Learning questionnaire. Your responses will allow us to better plan and support families should we be required to



recommence remote teaching and learning. Any parent who has not yet completed the questionnaire is asked to do so at their earliest convenience. Questionnaires were emailed to all families on Monday, 19th October. If you did not receive the questionnaire by email please make contact with the office on office@stmarysnscobh.com at your earliest convenience.

Preparing for all possible scenarios: We have been busy working behind the scenes to try be prepared for every eventuality. I have attached an outline of the roles and responsibilities of school personnel should the need to engage in remote learning arise in the future. As matters evolve, this information, as I'm sure you understand, is subject to change. This information, as it currently stands, has also been uploaded to the school website for your convenience.

Maths Week: Last week all classes celebrated Maths Week. Teachers devised and children engaged in a variety of additional, innovative Maths activities. These activities supported our efforts to promote a love of Maths and to see the practical implications of good Maths skills in our everyday lives. Some photos of the work that the children engaged in during Maths Week have been uploaded to the school website.

Halloween Dress Up: The children are very excited about dressing up in their Halloween costumes on Friday, 23rd October. Dress-Up day is always a fun day where the children enjoy the opportunity to share in the joy of celebrating this time together. We ask that you keep costumes simple please and, for health and safety reasons, children not wear Halloween masks. Unlike ordinary times, the sharing of treats in classes cannot happen this year. Please feel free to give your own daughter a snack/treat but no sharing packs/multipacks this year please. The Parents Association have arranged a small treat for each child which will be distributed in a safe manner on Friday. Many thanks to the PA for their generosity. You are reminded that the school will close at the regular time on Friday, 24th October.

Final word: It has been a very different half term. The situation we are in is difficult and requires a team effort to manage. Sincere thanks to all school staff for their positive work ethic and their commitment to meet the needs of our pupils at this time. Thank you, as always, to all parents for trusting us and for cooperating with all our efforts to keep our school community safe at this time. A special well done and thank you to our wonderful pupils. They have adapted to our new ways of working so readily and remind us every day, through their infectious smiles and enthusiasm, why we do what we do. Well done girls! Midterm break will be different this year. I hope you all have an opportunity to relax and re-charge. The break is well deserved.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Fiona O'Callaghan

Principal