

Newsletter February 2022

Easing of Covid 19 Restrictions after Mid Term Break

Staying at home if you have symptoms: The requirement to stay at home if you have symptoms remains – for students and staff alike. One of the key messages to manage the risks of COVID-19 is to do everything practical to avoid the introduction of COVID-19 into the school. If infection is not introduced it cannot be spread.

Hand Hygiene: Schools should continue to promote good hygiene. Hand hygiene can be achieved by hand washing or use of a hand sanitiser (when hands look clean).

Face coverings/mask wearing: It is no longer a requirement for staff or pupils/students to wear a face covering/mask in school. Staff and student/pupils can continue to wear a face covering/mask if they wish to do so on a personal basis.

School transport and Face coverings/mask wearing: With effect from Monday 28 February the wearing of face coverings/masks on school transport will no longer be mandatory but will continue to be advised. All other measures relating to hygiene (including the provision of hand sanitiser and additional cleaning of services) and pre-assigned seating will remain in place subject to further review.

Return to Work Form/ return to schools form: Schools no longer need to request staff or pupils/students to complete a Return to Work form or a Return to School form after school holidays/breaks.

Antigen testing arrangements for children in primary schools: As part of the transition arrangements the HSE will continue with the current processes to support the provision of antigen tests to primary schools, special schools and childcare settings. The Antigen Free phone number is: 1800 110055 or parents may order antigen tests online via www.hse.ie/schooltest. The call centre opening hours will be altered slightly and from next week onwards will be 8:45am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays). The online portal will remain operational 24/7 and will shortly be available through Irish as well as English. Participation in antigen testing is voluntary, therefore it is not necessary for parents to share information with the school about whether they have requested antigen tests and nor to confirm negative antigen tests. Children who are well should continue to come to school whether they participate in antigen testing or not.

Dates to remember: School Closures

Ash Wednesday 2nd March, Fr. Larry and Deacon David will call to school to administer ashes.

Closed 17th March St. Patrick's Day Thursday

Closed 18th March New Public Holiday Friday

Closing at 11:45am on Friday 8th April to facilitate Staff Primary Language Curriculum School In-service Day. Easter Holidays begin then.

Easter Holidays from Monday 11th April (2 weeks) Reopening Monday 25th April.

Dropping and Collecting:

Routine will remain the same for collecting Infants at 2.00pm, **the teacher will bring the class out to the yard and Parents collect from there.** Same at 3.00pm, children will come out to yard. If children are being collected early during the day parent come in to the school and sign them out/ sign in if returning.

Parent Teacher meetings:

Parent Teacher meetings (Face to face) will be held next week for those who can or wish to attend, times will be issued on Monday next 7th March. As per circular meeting will take place between 3.15pm and 5.45pm.