



St. John of God G.N.S. August Newsletter 3 2020



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to newsletter 3. This newsletter will deal with some more of the practical arrangements for school including our procedure for dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19, communicating with teachers, lunches, homework, visitors to the school building and when it is appropriate to keep your child at home from school.

Once again, the key message I would like to get across is that the best way to manage the risks of COVID-19 is to do everything practical to avoid the introduction of COVID-19 into the school. Parents will have a huge responsibility in working with the school to achieve this. A school is as safe as the community it is in, so we depend on the support of the whole community to observe the guidelines for keeping everyone safe; good hand washing and sanitizing etiquette, keeping personal belongings clean, socially distancing and ensuring that everyone in your household understands that their actions impact all others that they come into contact with. Together, we can keep everyone safe.

Keep your child at home if....

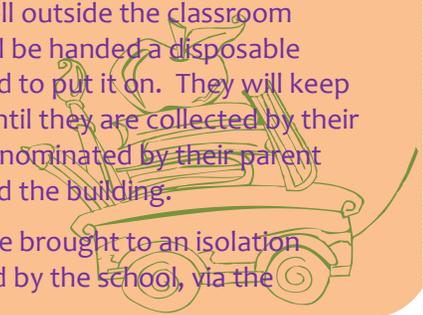
Under normal circumstance, the school would be doing all it could to encourage maximum attendance at school! However, we need to exercise caution in the current scenario and are asking parents to be extra vigilant and keep their child at home in the following circumstances:

1. If your child has been diagnosed with Covid-19
2. If your child is a close contact of a person who has been diagnosed with Covid-19
3. If your child has a suspected case of Covid-19 and is waiting on the outcome of a test
4. If your child is a close contact of a person who is a suspected case of Covid-19 and is awaiting the results of a test
5. If your child has an underlying health condition and has been directed by a medical professional not to attend school
6. If your child has returned home after travelling abroad and must self-isolate for 14 days
7. If your child is feeling generally unwell or is displaying symptoms of Covid-19.

Dealing with a suspected case of Covid-19

Each class teacher will have PPE supplies in their classroom. Further supplies, including a contactless thermometer, disposable aprons, gloves, tissues, wipes etc. will be kept in the isolation room and storage cupboard.

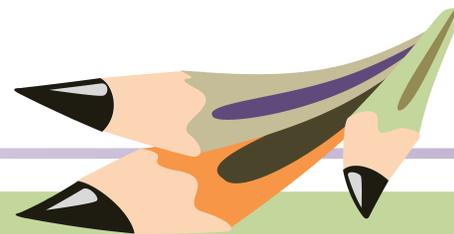
- ✓ The teacher or SNA will bring the pupil who is feeling unwell outside the classroom where they will be handed a disposable mask and asked to put it on. They will keep this mask on until they are collected by their parent/person nominated by their parent and have exited the building.
- ✓ The child will be brought to an isolation room identified by the school, via the isolation route.



- ✓ The person accompanying the child will also wear a mask and will maintain 2m distance between them and the child who is experiencing symptoms.
- ✓ Once the child is in the isolation room, the teacher/SNA will let Ger know and **the parents will be called immediately**. It will be explained to the parents that their daughter is displaying symptoms of Covid-19 and the parents will be asked to arrange immediate collection of the child. Neither public transport nor a taxi is to be used in this scenario to ensure the safety of other users of these services.
- ✓ When the child is home, the parents should call their G.P. as soon as possible to arrange for a test. They should not physically go to the G.P. surgery. The advice of their doctor should be followed.
- ✓ In school, arrangements will be made for the appropriate cleaning of the isolation area and surfaces involved.
- ✓ The HSE will be contacted for further advice on who needs to be made aware/tested/self-isolating.
- ✓ The child cannot return to school until deemed clear of Covid-19 by a doctor.

N.B. The H.S.E. will inform any staff or parents of children who have come into close contact with a diagnosed case via the contact tracing process. The H.S.E. instructions should be followed by all who are contacted.

As the symptoms of Covid-19 are so similar to symptoms associated with other seasonal illnesses like the 'flu, there may be many times when we follow the protocols for dealing with a suspected case and it turns out to be something else, especially during winter. Therefore we ask that everyone remembers in these scenarios, that this is a little girl who is feeling unwell, and their privacy and dignity should always be respected. If there is a need for your daughter to be tested they will be contacted by the H.S.E. to arrange same. Any child who is feeling unwell for whatever reason will be treated with compassion and care in school.



Our gorgeous new outdoor classroom 😊

Uniform/Lunch/School Bag/Homework

We want to limit as much as we can, the possibility of introducing the virus into school from objects brought from home.

- Please change out of your school uniform/tracksuit as soon as you go home
- We provide the children's school lunches so the only thing they need is a drink bottle, containing only milk or water.
- School bags and coats will be hung up in the cloakrooms outside the classroom on a designated hook. All copies, books, pencil case etc will be stored in the classroom and will be for school use only.
- There will be no written homework for the time being. School bags, stored outside the classroom, may be needed to bring home reading books for the week which will then be quarantined for 72 hours before being given to anyone else.

Finally, no visitors to the school will be allowed inside the building without a prior appointment.

This includes parents, sales reps, visiting coaches etc. If you would like to pass a message on to a teacher, please email her or ring the office. If you need to speak to the teacher, ring the office and a call back will be arranged. Please don't ask the teacher for a quick word on the yard.

We are so excited to get back to school and see everyone again. See you on Monday 😊

**Le Meas,
Aoife McNicholas**

