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22/9/20

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you are all keeping well during these unusual and unprecedented times. We are now three weeks back in school. Please God the children are settling in and becoming more comfortable with our new school routines. We are doing everything possible to keep the whole school community safe and your acknowledgement of this and your help is very much appreciated and needed. I think the children are really enjoying being back and it is great to see them settling in and adapting to the changes we have had to introduce. Please continue to advise them to wash/sanitise their hands, engage in appropriate respiratory techniques, particularly relating to sneezing and coughing and to observe social distancing.

As you are aware we posted our return to school plan on the school website and also on the Aladdin Connect app, so you can check this to reacquaint yourselves with the procedures if someone shows symptoms in school. Please download the Aladdin Connect app if you haven't done so. If you have any difficulties, contact Finola in the office.

I know that you may worry or be concerned when you hear rumours that a staff member or a pupil is being tested. Just as in the wider community and society in general, it is a fact of life that from time to time, school staff and pupils will have to be tested for Covid 19 for a number of reasons.

Examples include:

If a member of the school community (staff member or pupil) is in close contact with a confirmed case, he/she will have to stay out of school for a minimum of 14 days. During this period they will be tested twice. If the results are negative they can return to school after the 14 days.

If a staff member or pupil is displaying symptoms, he/she/ or parent will seek advice from their GP. If they are sent for a test they will have to stay out of school. If the test result is negative he/she can return to school. While awaiting the result, no one else in school needs to isolate or restrict their movements.

If a family member, who is part of staff member/pupil's household is being tested, the staff member or pupil must stay at home until a negative result comes back.

I cannot inform the wider school community if someone is getting tested, awaiting a result or restricting their movements as outlined above.

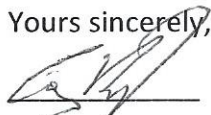
However if a positive result is confirmed, we have been informed that the HSE will contact the school, ascertain the close contacts of the diagnosed case and tell us what to do. Only

the close contacts will be informed. The HSE has access to my mobile number and as a result I can be contacted by the HSE at any time day or night.

Advice for parents/guardians is also available on the HSE link: [Covid -19 Advice for Parents](#).

We will get through this if we all work together and concentrate on doing everything possible to minimise the risk of infection. Becoming complacent and not adhering to the advice given by the experts could create a situation none of us wants to face.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerry King', written over a horizontal line.

Gerry King,

Principal.