



3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

**COVID-19 Feedback Notice:**

*We are delighted to say that following the latest information note from the Department of Education: "Updated COVID-19 Guidance to Schools following the mid-term break 2022", we can now make some changes to our current practices.*

Mask Wearing and Physical Distancing	<p>Is no longer a requirement for students or staff to wear a face covering or mask in school, but it is still advised .</p> <p>The wearing of Face coverings/masks on school transport will no longer be mandatory but will continue to be strongly advised</p> <p>If members of staff or students wish to continue wearing face masks or covering, they may do so</p>
Covid-19 Symptoms	<p>A critical component of the collective response in relation to Covid-19 which continues to apply is the requirement to stay at home if you have <b>any</b> symptoms (even if fully vaccinated/boosted) or have a positive covid-19 test. This remains for all students and all staff.</p> <p>As before Covid-19, children (and adults) who are unwell in any way must be symptom-free of any illness for at least 48 hours before returning to school.</p>
Antigen Testing	<p>As part of the transition, antigen testing will still be available through the HSE website <a href="http://www.hse.ie/schooltest">www.hse.ie/schooltest</a> or free phone 1800 110055, should there be a confirmed positive case in your child's group</p>
School Cleaning	<p>The enhanced cleaning regime throughout the school will remain in place</p>
Ventilation	<p>Ventilation practices are to remain the same - open windows and air purifiers</p>
Hand hygiene	<p>The school continues to promote good hand hygiene practices- that is, hand washing and the use of hand sanitisers</p>
Classes	<p>Classes can now mix more freely within their bubbles. Breaks are to remain staggered for the moment due to reasons other than Covid-19. This will be re-visited in the future. We are no longer required to maintain arrangements around physical distancing.</p>
Return to School Declarations	<p>Declaration to Return to School on Aladdin are no longer necessary. This automatic facility has been turned off in Aladdin.</p>

Isolation Area	The isolation area will remain in place for any illnesses which may present in the school for the present time.
Entrance Doors	The three entrance doors into school will remain in operation
Visitors to School	All visitors to our school are welcome in person once more. We will revert to normal arrangements for visitors. As was previously the case, it is expected that parents and guardians, and all visitors, will make a prior appointment with the school. All visitors will have to sign in and out on the school visitor register.
Covid-19 Signs	Most Covid-19 signs and literature have been taken down in the school
HSE Public Health Risk Assessment Arrangements	Where a positive case occurs in a Special School, P.H. will still undertake a public health risk assessment if the case was in the school during their infectious period.
Communications between parents and the school	<p>As we move into more normal times we will revert to the use of Class dojo in the Primary Classes as a platform only for short day-to-day quick messages.</p> <p>Teachers are in a position to check Class dojo twice daily- each school day at 9.00am before classes commence and at 3.00pm after classes finish.</p> <p>Should you need a longer communication, please arrange a face-to-face meeting with the teacher or principal as appropriate, use Aladdin Connect, or make a phone-call to the school.</p> <p>Should we ever have to get back to the point of Distance Learning (God forbid), we will reactivate the longer and more virtual communication systems</p>

It is great that we are at this stage, and we thank everyone for their efforts and support over a highly challenging period in everyone's lives. We look forward to the increasing and ongoing 'normalisation' of school life.

All good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

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Karen Lowther, Principal