



## Maynooth Educate Together NS Newsletter September 2020

**Covid-19 Safety:** Very sincere thanks for the huge compliance to my request for parents to wear facemasks in the school grounds. Also, for the increase in the number of parents who are dropping off their children without parking up. Our staggered drop-offs in the mornings are working really well, and the afternoon collections are working well also. It is really obvious that our school community is working really hard to ensure that our school return is successful and ongoing.

**Advice:** Please follow the Covid-19 Advice for Parents documents, issued by the Public Health authority, which I am attaching to this email.

**School Procedures:** In the event that members of the school community become ill with covid-19 symptoms, we will follow the procedures as set out for us by the Department of Education and Skills. We will isolate the child and contact the parents to collect the child from school immediately. If the child tests positive, the HSE will advise the school on any further actions needed. The HSE will conduct the contact tracing and will liaise with the school in this matter. All who are deemed to be close contacts will be contacted by the HSE and advised on any further action required. It is very important that we all follow the advice given to us by the HSE. The HSE will also advise on communications to school pupils and staff where needed.

**Communication with school:** If your child is being tested or has tested positive for Covid-19, you must contact me *immediately* by email, [principal@maynoothet.ie](mailto:principal@maynoothet.ie) or by phone call to the school 01-5054250. All communication will be treated in confidence and all procedures as set out by the Department of Education and Skills and the Public Health authority will be followed.

**Confidentiality:** All of the procedures set out for the management of a covid-19 outbreak are designed to provide confidentiality to those who have the virus. Public Health will steer the process and if we all adhere to the advice provided by the HSE, then all who need to be contacted will be contacted. We ask that you **do not engage in speculation** regarding the identity of a patient, as your speculation may lead to unnecessary worry to those who have had no contact with the case. It is very important that we all follow the advice of the HSE and that we trust the process.

**Communication with parents:** **It is vitally important that all parents are contactable in the event that a child becomes ill at school. We must have a mobile phone number for you, a number that you can answer at any time. Otherwise, we must have a work number at which you may be contacted.**

In recent days we have been unable to contact parents on the mobile numbers provided to us. This is unacceptable. Please ensure that our school records contain your current phone numbers, at which you will be contactable throughout the school day.

Thank you for your support to date. In working together we will maximise the chances of our school remaining a safe place for us all.

Marie, Principal.