



Maynooth Educate Together National School

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Dear Parents,

As we commence the third week of December, I wish to thank you all for your continued co-operation in keeping our school safe. Our children continue to wash and sanitise their hands regularly and our classes remain in their class bubbles and pods. This arrangement ensures that there is no cross contamination between classes if a child tests positive for Covid-19. Also, your continued co-operation in keeping your children home if they display any symptoms of Covid-19 or are carrying other viral infections, ensures that our classrooms are as safe as possible.

Parents have been very prompt in recognising the symptoms of Covid-19 in their children and arranging PCR testing. Thank you for your prompt communication to the school of the results, when positive, and for adhering to the HSE advice on isolation periods. We are following the advice issued to us by the Department of Education and Skills in communicating to parents that a child in a pod/class has tested positive. It is very clear to me that you are all engaging with the antigen programme rolled out by the HSE. This is helpful in attempting to detect infection in asymptomatic children.

The Department of Education and Skills have provided a Principals Helpline for advice, and we engage with this if we need to. The HSE is notified of every case of Covid-19 of those attending or working in a school. The HSE investigation and control teams then contact the schools to carry out a Public Health Risk Assessment (PHRA), which determine what actions are needed at that point to protect all. The PHRA is reviewed as new information comes in.

There is huge compliance to the face mask wearing mandate issued to our school. This is another measure introduced to increase the safety in our schools. Face masks/coverings act as a barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from travelling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the face mask/covering coughs, sneezes, talks or raises their voice. Face masks/coverings are therefore intended to prevent transmission of the virus from the wearer (who may not know that they are infected) to those with whom they come into close contact. Thank you for your continued co-operation with this measure. Children may use face masks from our school office if needed.

There are plans to roll out the vaccination programme to children aged 5-12 years. This is really good news. This will further protect our children from the virus.

Thank you for your continued support.

Marie, Principal