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*Each individual through positive learning experiences will be given opportunities to reach his/her full potential,  
face life confidently, find fulfillment and be respectful in an ever-changing world.*

8th October 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are well. Your children are amazing. They have adapted to the changes we have made so well. We are blessed to work in a school environment with children every day. They smile, laugh, play and learn and unlike the adults in their lives have a lot more to talk about than the CoronaVirus! I pray and thank God for them every day.

I want to sincerely thank you for supporting the staff in their efforts to ensure the safe return of our children. All staff came on board well before the children started school to discuss and agree on the best solutions for the safe return of all. I am blessed to have a very dedicated and talented staff - a team of people who genuinely care for each and every child and want what is best for our school. We have had to adapt as we make changes in what is a changing learning environment but we have so far come through this challenging time safely. Indeed I believe we will have better practices in school as a result of the changes we have had to make.

The school's Parents' Association had a meeting last Thursday night and I want to thank Kristina Anic and the committee for continuing to support our school.

**We do not have any confirmed positive cases of Covid-19 in the school.** However, it is only prudent that we consider what procedures are in place to deal with such a situation if it was to arise, so that all of us are aware in advance of what happens in such an event. Please find these overleaf.

Please continue to monitor your children as they wash/clean their hands and teach them what to do when they cough or sneeze.

Thank you for your support,  
May God keep our school community safe,  
Kindest regards,

*Una Feeley*

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Principal

**Chairperson: Fr. Kevin Fallon**

**Principal: Dr. Úna Feeley**

## Safety and Control Measures

The BoM, school leadership and staff are very conscious of the paramount need to keep all pupils, staff and visitors safe while in the school. The school is a controlled environment. There are control measures in place to combat the introduction or spread of COVID-19. The following are **the SYMPTOMS of Covid-19.**

- a fever (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above)
- a cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry
- shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

## When a person displays any of the above symptoms of COVID-19

The following steps are taken when a person (child or adult) in the school presents with suspected COVID-19 symptoms:

- That person is moved to the isolated area prior to going home. In the case of children their parents will be asked to come to the school, take them home and **contact their GP for a free telephone consultation**
- If the GP recommends that the person (child or adult) go for a COVID-19 test, that person is now considered a query case for COVID-19 and all of his/her household members must restrict their movements until the results of the test come back
- In the case of a negative result (98% of cases), the GP will advise when the person should return to school – usually after 48 hours.
- In the case of a positive result (2% of cases), Public Health will, by law, be informed. This may take a matter of hours due to legal and volume of work issues. The risk has been removed from the school as the person who tested positive and his/her household are at home
- The person tested, or their parents, may well be informed before Public Health. In many cases a social media discussion ensues and anxiety levels are raised among the school community.

## Public Health Intervention

The Public Health Department of the HSE is the agency responsible by law for dealing with positive cases of COVID-19:

- Once notified by the HSE testing regime, Public Health Doctors assume total control of the situation and will carry out a risk assessment. Based on questioning the person with the positive result, they will ascertain if they were within the school setting when they contracted the virus. If not, there may be no need to contact the school
- If the person was within the school setting when they contracted the virus, Public Health will contact the principal to carry out a Public Health Risk Assessment. This is a set of questions to see who might have been exposed to the virus and who needs to be excluded or tested. This risk assessment will be unique to each school
- The principal and BoM have no function in the risk assessment, other than to provide whatever information is required by the Public Health Medical Officer conducting the risk assessment
- The principal and BoM may be asked to assist the Medical Office by sending a message from them to the relevant families identified in the risk assessment. Public Health will not contact other members of the school community
- The principal and BoM are not permitted to inform members of the school community of the identity of the person or persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 for the following reasons:
  - Doctor – Patient confidentiality
  - GDPR legislation prevents the publication of personal data without consent

*Una Feeley*

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(Principal: Board of Management)

