8.1.2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We appreciate that many of you have made the decision to keep your children at home during this period of lockdown. We will do our best to support you with home learning for the duration. It is easier and safer for staff to manage this via seesaw but we can provide printed copies of work for collection if need be. We will be asking you to let us know by Wednesday of each week if you intend your child to attend school the following week or if you would prefer home learning the following week. Please give us this advance notice on see saw so we can prepare appropriately for all. Parents should also inform transport if they are not attending. If your child is not engaging in home learning, please advise us of the reason they are absent otherwise they will be automatically marked as unauthorised absence.

Please be conscious of the fact that our teachers are engaged in face to face teaching each day so will not be able to communicate with you at length throughout the school day. Work will be uploaded by other available staff so it will be more generic and feedback will be basic.

For those choosing to attend school we will be taking a simple approach to the curriculum concentrating on Literacy and Numeracy skills and focusing on the pastoral needs of our pupils. We will be remaining in class bubbles as much as we possibly can in both the Primary and Secondary departments however with staff absences and shortages there may be a variety of adults based in your child’s classroom at various times.

We would ask you to continue to encourage your child to wear a mask on school transport and also communal areas in school. The new directive is for all secondary pupils to wear masks in class. If they can please encourage them to do so however we understand that this is not possible for the majority. We would also ask parents colleting children in the afternoon to wear masks and keep a safe distance from others at all times.

School meals will be provided in school each day however the planned menu may be different as catering staff have been directed to use supplies from other schools which are now closed.

School will continue to follow DE guidance on cleaning, wearing PPE, personal hygiene, social distancing. We will do everything we can to keep everyone safe in our school.

If your child is feeling unwell with a cough, high temperature or loss of taste/smell please air on the side of caution and do not send your child to school. Get them tested as per PHA guidance or seek medical advice. This is also the case if anyone in your household is showing signs or symptoms. If any child is showing any of these symptoms we will send them home.

Please bear in mind that there are additional anxieties for our school staff as their colleagues are being directed to stay safe by working from home while they are being asked to continue with face to face teaching.

Ensure you are contactable at all times in case you need to come and collect your child due to them showing signs or symptoms of COVID19 or in the case that they are identified as a close contact to someone who has tested positive for COVID19. We will follow the advice of PHA in these circumstances.

STAY SAFE and WELL

Yours sincerely,

Miss Laura Matchett

Principal