**The New School Term(2)**

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We are looking forward to seeing everyone tomorrow morning as we begin a new term. This year we **will not** be implementing the staggered starts and staggered finishes. School begins at 9am for P.1 – P7 and finishes at 2pm for P.1 – P.3 and 3pm for P.4 – P.7.

**It is crucial that you move out of the yard as soon as you have dropped off or collected your child(ren).**

* Morning Club and Afterschool Club begin on Monday 6th September.
* Working parents can drop off their child(ren) from 8.45 where they will be supervised in the yard.
* Homework Club will be arranged next week.

Children are to bring schoolbags to school and can bring their lunch in a lunch box. It would be very helpful if your child could bring their own pencil case with pencils, colouring pencils, rubbers, sharpener, glue stick and scissors. The older children should have a ruler, red pens, highlighters, hand sanitiser and a packet of tissues. **It makes life a lot easier if your child’s belongings are labelled.**

We are continuing our practice of the children remaining in a class bubble while in the school building. There will be some controlled mixing at break-time **outside**, where children in composite classes can join their own year group if they wish. Supervisors will keep an eye on numbers so no yard becomes overcrowded.

Please familiarise yourself with the most up to date guidance. A copy of a flow chart, explaining the procedures to be followed in the event of a positive case at school, is attached.

It is inevitable that a positive case will be reported to the school and it is essential that you know the procedures.

When a child tests positive, their class will not be permitted to come to school. The child testing positive must isolate for ten days from the onset of symptoms. The children from that class must take a PCR test. If the result is negative, your child can return to school but they must take a second test on day eight. If the result is positive, your child must isolate for ten days from the date of test or the onset of symptoms.

**Please send a screen shot of your child’s negative PCR result. Your child cannot return to school until we have received a copy of the result.**

Children who have had a positive PCR result in the last ninety days, do not need to take a PCR test. They can attend school but should symptoms appear, they will need to isolate and take a PCR as soon as possible. Please see the flow chart attached.

Children who are isolating at home and are asymptomatic, will have work sent home. There can be no online lessons as your child’s teacher will be teaching their class - the children who have tested negative.

This year will not be straightforward. As you know, infection rates are high at the moment and the return to school and colleges will, no doubt, further impact this. Please continue to be vigilant.

We pray to St Malachy to keep us all safe.

Le meas,

Pauline McEvoy

Principal