**New Guidance 13/9/21**

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

You are probably already aware of the latest change in guidance regarding the procedures to follow if your child or one of their classmates tests positive. In case you are unsure of what to do, please follow the steps below –

* If your child tests positive, the PHA will instruct you on your next steps, including contacting your child’s school to inform them of your child’s result.
* The **PHA** will then contact any other children who have been identified as close contacts – they may need some assistance from the school to identify these contacts.
* If your child is in the affected class but has not been contacted by PHA, they are able to continue attending school. There is no longer a requirement for the entire class to isolate for ten days.

Should your child show symptoms of the virus at any time, a new continuous cough and/or a high temperature and/or a loss of or change in their sense of smell or taste, please keep your child at home and book **a PCR test**. Your child should only return to school if the test is negative. If the test is positive, your child must remain at home for the entire isolation period.

**A negative result from a lateral flow test is not sufficient to allow your child to return to school.**

If someone in your household tests positive, your children should isolate and have a PCR test.

If they have had a positive PCR test result in the last ninety days, they do not need to be re-tested and are able to attend school.

Should they begin to show symptoms, they must remain at home until they have received a negative result from a PCR test or if positive, complete the isolation period.

The flow chart attached will help you through the steps.

Pauline McEvoy

Principal