

Kiltale National School

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Scoil Mhuire Naofa

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Dun Samhna
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23rd September 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope this finds you and your family well in these challenging times as we do our best to keep the Covid 19 virus away from our homes and families.

We are now happily settled back to learning at school and the children are enjoying the company of their friends at play and in the classrooms. We are all working hard to maintain our 'pods' and 'bubbles', maintain our physical distancing and keep high standards of hygiene, handwashing and sanitising. The children have been really good at adapting to new behaviours and protocols and helping to keep each other safe and well.

Our environmental hygiene plan is working well, and the investments by the Board of Management in furniture, sanitisers, cleaning and classroom materials to support the Covid Response Plan are proving invaluable.

Parents have been giving positive feedback on the fact that reading and learning homework have been prioritised for this term and therefore we will continue with this until the mid-term break. The well-being of our students is key to their happiness and to their adjustment to the return to school and quality learning. We hope you are enjoying engaging with them in their 'Weaving Well-Being' programme and that you are finding your 'rainbow moments' as they learn about positive emotions and feeling good in mind and body.



A sincere thank you for your support and cooperation with the morning drop-offs and evening collections, which have worked really well ensuring the safe arrival and collection of the children without confusion and congestion.

As there is no reference in the public-health guidance to the daily washing of school uniforms we will return to wearing our **School Uniform** as normal starting from Monday 28th September, with PE Tracksuits only worn on PE days. Each teacher will let you know which days they have PE.

You may have concerns about the steps that will be taken in the event of a suspected/confirmed case of Covid-19 in the school. I can assure you that we will closely follow the HSE directives should this eventuality occur. The HSE has issued guidance for parents which addresses the following issues:

- Symptoms to look out for and when to contact your GP
- When to keep your child at home and phone your GP
- When it's okay to send your child to school or childcare

You can access this guidance at the following link: [HSE: Covid-19 Advice for Parents](#)

1. If your child becomes unwell at school and presents with symptoms associated with Covid-19, we will follow the procedure that is set out in our school's Covid-19 Response Plan. This involves bringing your child to a designated area within the school. This area is called an "isolation area" and every school is required to have such an area identified to deal with a potential case of Covid-19.

We will contact you and ask you to collect your child as soon as possible.

Please note that the school is not required to inform anyone that your child has been removed due to his/her symptoms. This procedure is purely precautionary. If you have other children in the school, they do not have to be removed from the school at this point.

You are required to contact your GP to discuss concerns and we would ask that you keep the school updated on the advice given by your GP.

The next steps will depend on the advice given to you by your GP.

2. If your child is referred for a test, all other members of the household that attend the school should remain at home.
3. If your child is confirmed positive for Covid-19, the HSE will begin the process of contact tracing. This will most likely mean that the school will be contacted to assess the Public Health Risk.

From this point onwards, the process will be led by the Public Health HSE.

- The school cannot take any action in relation to exclusion, part closure or full closure, unless the Public Health HSE determine that the action is required.
- If any action of this nature is required, the HSE will liaise with the school to provide clear guidance to the school community.
- If the school has not been contacted by the Public Health HSE in relation to a confirmed case in the school community, then contact with the school has not been deemed necessary.

It is a distressing time for families who are dealing with a suspected or confirmed case and all pupils and their families are entitled to confidentiality. The school cannot and will not make the name of a pupil with a suspected or confirmed case known to the public.

Unfortunately, we have no control over exchanges on social media, where information based on hearsay is shared. We would respectfully request that parents who choose to communicate about this issue on social media should consider how these comments could be misinterpreted. Please refrain from naming pupils and their families on these platforms.

We will continue to implement the measures set out in the school's Covid-19 Response Plan to provide a safe learning environment for our pupils and a safe and healthy workplace for all our staff.

Thank you again for your support and cooperation with the return to school and we look forward to your continued co-operation in the months ahead.

Sincerely yours,

Eileen O Reilly,

Principal.