



26th February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope that you are keeping safe and well. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our Leaving Certificate students back on Monday the 1st of March 2021.

We had an assembly with students on Thursday the 25th of February 2021 giving as much of an update as we were in a position to give. Once we have more updates we will have another student assembly. A recording of this session is still available for you and your child on their year group team.

Here in school we have been working very hard to ensure a safe reopening of schools for staff, students and their families.

There will be new rules and routines to follow, that are there to keep everyone safe.

Most students will be looking forward to going back to school and will feel happy and excited. Some may feel a little anxious about returning. That's a normal response at a time of change. Most will settle back in soon once they get used to the new rules and routines. Remind them of the positive aspects of returning – like re-connecting with friends and re-engaging with school activities.

Good hand washing will be important for all students. Make sure your child knows to use a tissue to cover coughs or sneezes or to cough or sneeze into their elbow.

At post-primary level, schools will put in place physical distancing procedures. **It is imperative that you encourage your child to also maintain social distancing during break time, lunch time and whilst travelling to and from school.**

Staff in post-primary students, are required to wear a face covering where a physical distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained.

Encourage your child to walk or cycle to school if possible and safe to do so.

Post-primary students will be required to wear a face covering when waiting for and when onboard the bus.

Talk together at home about what to expect when going back to school. You should let the school know of any concerns you have about your child's learning experience during the school closure period. Having healthy routines in place will help with the adjustment of returning to school. Encourage your child to gradually introduce bedtime routines that are closer to those used during school term.

Also, help your child to eat healthily, take exercise and re-connect with friends.

Teachers understand that it hasn't been easy to learn at home during school closures and they will support students to be ready to learn.

Anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms, including a fever, a cough, shortness of breath or breathing difficulties, or loss or change to their sense of smell or taste should not attend school. Please follow guidance from the HSE on self-isolation and phone your doctor. Make sure students know that if they feel unwell in school they should tell their teacher straight away.

Remember we all have a role to play in getting everyone back to school safely.

For more see gov.ie/backtoschool.

Kind Regards,

Alan Cunningham

(Principal)