

St. Theresa's Primary School, Glebe



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Principal: Mr. Gabriel Brogan

4th January, 2022

Dear Parents / Guardians,

A Happy New Year and we look forward to welcoming our pupils back to school on Wednesday 5th January.

Revised Guidance

You will all be aware of the current high levels of community transmission of Covid-19, and we wish to reassure you that all existing Health and Safety measures remain in place. Following recent communication from the Department of Education, please note the following revision to guidance. This can be viewed by clicking on the link:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-self-isolating-and-close-contacts>

Self-Isolating

If your child has symptoms of or have been diagnosed with COVID-19 they **MUST self-isolate**

Please contact St Theresa's immediately to inform us of the situation and do not send your child into school. We will discuss the current guidelines with you regarding this scenario.

Close Contact

If your child is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, we **expect you to contact the school** before sending your child in so that we are aware of the situation and for us also to **advise on guidelines** that are made **both** by the Department of Education and St Theresa's Board of Governors. Please continue to follow this request, as the Health & Safety of the whole school community is paramount.

Remote Learning

At this present time and now more than ever, school leaders and staff are facing challenging times to continue providing high quality education to the children in our schools. Therefore, as a result of Covid-19, we may be faced with scenarios such as staff shortages due to

Isolation guidelines

Agreed measures implemented by the Board of Governors.

Sourcing substitute teachers to cover teacher absences to allow classes to operate effectively

Shortages of support and ancillary staff which may compromise the safe and effective operation of the school

Obviously the safety of our school community is of paramount importance and it is important to continue putting contingency plans in place for remote learning for whole school or for specific classes, if the case arises. We are currently reviewing these plans. More to follow on this.

However, no class teacher is available for the Primary 1 & 2 classroom tomorrow. Therefore, Primary 1 & 2 will remain at home and return to school on Thursday 6th January. At the moment, we are not fully finalised in our arrangements with remote learning, so some practical activities will be uploaded via a Seesaw announcement to the Primary 1 & 2 Seesaw class.

Finally...

I've no doubt that challenging times lie ahead with this pandemic, but we hope to make the transition as smooth as possible for our school community. It is hoped that this information provides clarification on the updated Covid-19 Health and Safety guidance and we will continue to advise on the recommendations of St Theresa's Board of Governors. Please be assured that the Board of Governors are meeting regularly to review the current updated guidance.

Please continue to contact the school office in the event that your child may be absent from school.

On behalf of the staff at St Theresa's, I wish you and your families every blessing for 2022.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr. G. Brogan
Principal