

Dear Parents,

Thank you for keeping your child at home when they are unwell or when the household is isolating due to COVID- 19. Your support is much appreciated and it is helping to keep our school open and our school community safe.

Due to high transmission rates we are employing as many mitigations as possible to keep our children, the staff and parents safe and our school open. These mitigations include:

- face coverings worn at all times by staff
- high level of ventilation
- consistent hand washing routines
- practice of good respiratory hygiene
- staggered arrival and pickup routines to support social distancing
- thorough cleaning routines
- regular lateral flow testing for all staff members
- staff and pupils following guidance and seeking a PCR test if they show symptoms of COVID-19
- reduction social contacts
- support of parents by keeping unwell children at home or if a household are isolating and following school routines

Our board of Governors have asked me to alert you to the fact that all schools are experiencing increasing pressures when staff test positive for COVID-19. Due to the large numbers of absences across all sectors, finding substitute teachers and other school staff is proving to be a challenge. We want to keep our school open and do not want to have to close for short periods due to staff shortages. This will only be the case if substitute staff can not be engaged to ensure that the children remain safe.

We are thankful for your continued support in following guidance and protecting our school community. We look forward to this term with the wonderful children in Victoria Nursery. We have seen the children grow, have fun and make new friends in term one and look forward to continuing this exciting learning journey in term 2.

Best wishes

Orla McAllister