

Scoil Lios na Groí

Lisnagry National School



5th January 2022

Dear Parents,

Firstly I hope that you are all doing ok this evening as I write this and that you had some time to rest and recharge over the Christmas break. I am conscious that some of your households were affected by the virus during the break. I hope that you managed alright in this unwelcome situation and that you and your families are doing well now.

Without a doubt, we are facing into a very challenging period in the weeks ahead to keep the classes and school in general open and keep each other safe as the Omicron variant of this virus prevails in our community. We will all have to pull together to carefully monitor the most up to date information and do everything we can to try to avoid outbreaks, although with the high level of transmission that this variant has, this will not always be possible. We know that this challenge will be immense despite the best efforts of staff, parents and pupils. The sub shortage for teachers and SNA's is already evident this week and that is before we even reopen.

So as we face into this new term together, we would really appreciate if everyone would please note the following points:

- We encourage all pupils in 3rd,4th,5th and 6th classes to continue wearing face masks to school. We can't begin to explain how proud we are of our pupils and the maturity that they have shown in accepting this measure. We know that it can be tricky sometimes in class with the masks but the effort the children are making is so admirable and a real visible sign of their commitment to helping us to keep our school safe.
- The school building will be cold in the coming weeks as we try to find the balance between good ventilation and maintaining some kind of tolerable temperature. We encourage the children to wear layers under their uniforms to keep them warm.
- Please be vigilant to the symptoms of the virus and if you have any concern about your child, please don't send them into school. Then please follow public health advice and contact your GP. This vigilance is our main defence against an outbreak in the various classes in terms of the school setting.
- Please seriously consider limiting your child's social contacts where possible outside the school setting to try to avoid multi-pod or class transmission of the virus.

As we reopen tomorrow, please send in your child's book box with them and complete the Return to School Declaration available on Aladdin Connect.

I have attached below the most up to date isolation information for children under 13 from the HSE (published on 4th January 2022). This is the guide we will be using at school when assessing the situations which will arise. It frequently changes along with all the public health advice, so please do keep an eye on it.

If you are concerned about anything or have any questions, please email info@lisnagryns.ie We encourage you as always, to keep the lines of communication open with us as we will do with you.

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to wish you all a Happy New year and hope that 2022 brings brighter and easier times for us all. We look forward to welcoming all our boys and girls back to school in the morning.

Kind regards,

Michael Feeney