**JANUARY NEWSLETTER**

Welcome back to school everyone. The children are happy to be back in their routine and meeting their friends, teachers and SNAs again.

**Covid-19 Updates**

Like all workplaces, our school is impacted by severe staff shortages. Staff are not allowed to come in if they are diagnosed with Covid, if they are a close household contact or if they have any possible symptoms.

Over the next few weeks, **some classes may be asked to stay at home for a couple of days at a time for remote learning through Class Dojo. If this is the case, we will contact you by text and Class Dojo**. Are you signed up to Class Dojo? Do we have up-to-date phone numbers for you?

Our Covid school safety measures continue as usual:

* *Sanitising* regularly throughout the school day.
* *Social distancing* in the yard, classrooms and staffrooms to minimise mixing groups.
* *Ventilation and outdoor learning and play.* Fresh air blows away the germs. Children should be dressed warmly every day with layers under and over their uniforms.
* *Masking.* Children in junior schools are not required to wear masks. All staff wear masks and the Board of Management has requested all adults and teenagers to wear masks while on school grounds.
* *Symptom awareness*. Parents should watch out for worsening of an existing condition or new-onset symptoms as described on the HSE website.

Common symptoms: fever or temperature over 38,

dry cough,

tiredness or “off-form”

Less common symptoms: loss or change of sense of smell or taste,

runny or blocked nose,

conjunctivitis,

sore throat,

headache or aches and pains,

different types of skin rash,

nausea or vomiting or diarrhoea,

chills or dizziness

Public Health doctors have asked all schools to remind the school community that staff and children should not attend school if they have any symptoms.

We expect that all families will support these efforts to protect everyone in our school community. We are keeping in mind those who are medically vulnerable and might need hospital care.

**Grandparents Day**

Grandparents Day is on January 26th. We unfortunately can’t have any in school celebrations again this year, but we salute our fantastic grandparents who are so important to our school community.

**Parent Teacher Meetings**

Parent-teacher meetings will take place on the 15th and 16th February this year. We will update you closer to the time on the format (in-person/phone call) these will take this year, keeping public health guidelines in close consideration.