



16/03/2020

Dear Parents

Thank you for your support in these exceptional circumstances. The decision to cancel the St Patrick's Day Concert was not taken lightly and I know that many of you are disappointed at missing the show. However, the children put on a wonderful display of talent, energy and joy for their peers and staff and I hope you enjoyed the video and photos we shared on twitter.

I want to reassure you that we are following PHA advice closely and have plenty of soap, paper towels and toilet paper in school. Since the onset of Covid 19 in Ireland, the Building Supervisor and his team, who always work so hard to keep the school clean, have been extremely vigilant in ensuring that all surfaces including door handles, door plates, bannisters, toilets, desks etc are kept as clean as possible in such a busy environment. Teachers have taught additional lessons in all year groups on the importance of hygiene and very careful hand washing and will continue to do so. **However, two unconfirmed cases of Covid 19, in adults closely related to pupils, have been reported to the school. These children are not in school this week.**

We all have a duty to help prevent the spread of Covid 19 and we have a number of children in school with compromised immune systems. **The PHA advises if you/ your child has a high temperature and/or a persistent cough you should stay at home for seven days and seek medical advice. Please err on the side of caution.**

**Please let the office know by telephone if your child is unwell-do not come in to school if you/your child is unwell.**

There is a lot of speculation in the media about school closures and if the Dept. of Education decide to close schools, we will inform you by text message as soon as we have official confirmation. Every child's **Primary Contact Number** was sent a text message last Thursday announcing the cancellation of the St Patrick's Day Concert. If you or your partner did not get this message, please contact the office so that we can investigate this.

Our current website is very dated and difficult to update. We do have a new user friendly website in development and hope to launch it next term. In the meantime, we keep the school community up to date with events through our school twitter account. It is a closed account and we have to accept followers. If you do not have twitter I would advise that you download the app and send a request to follow us on @TheresePS. Please let the office know your user name. If we do not recognise the name as being a parent of one of our pupils, we will not accept the follower request.

Teachers have put together literacy and numeracy learning packs, which are being sent home today to be used in the event of school closure. They have also signed their classes up for Studyladder. Every child will have their own log in names and passwords for this

excellent resource. Please keep these safe. Studyladder is giving unlimited free access to their games/activities **during the school day if** schools have to close due to Covid 19. Teachers will recommend a range of online activities that address specific aspects of the curriculum through this learning platform. Teachers are also pulling together lists of other websites and activities that are appropriate for different age groups. While schools remain open, we will continue to send home homework activities. However, due to the nature of Covid 19 it is hugely important that work is **not** returned to school. For this reason, we will not be sending reading books home from today and we request that children do not bring schoolbags or homework folders to school at this time.

During this time, we ask parents to drop their children at the school gate in the morning and to maintain social distancing when collecting children from school. Afterschool clubs will be cancelled from Wed March 18<sup>th</sup> as are any visitors to the school and any trips by the children.

We understand that many families have decided to keep their children at home during these unprecedented times and we totally understand this decision. We will be making arrangements for the delivery /collection of home learning packs for these children in the next few days. The office is very busy currently with a high volume of calls, so please only call if the matter is urgent. We will contact you by text message regarding collection/delivery of home learning packs as soon as they are ready.

We will continue to monitor the situation and follow advice from the PHA, Dept of Education, Education Authority and CCMS. I wish you and your family good health during this very worrying period in our lives.

Regards  
Mrs S McTaggart  
Principal