



**Scoil Náisiúnta Naomh Fheargus,
An Gleann,
Co. Luimnigh.**

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29th October 2020

Dear Parents,

Hoping this email finds everyone well at this very difficult time. Despite all of our best hopes this mid-term break has been stressful and worrying for all for us. Please God, you and your family got to relax and enjoy time together over the course of the last few days.

As you are aware, there have now been six confirmed cases of Covid-19 within three classes of St. Fergus' National School. The classes concerned are Fifth and Sixth, Second and Half of Third and Senior Infants and First Class. Discussions with the HSE have deemed the following numbers to be close contacts of confirmed cases;

- 25 pupils in Fifth and Sixth Class
- All pupils in Second and Half of third Class
- No pupil in Senior and First Class

The criteria used by Public Health to deem someone a close contact of a confirmed case is as follows;

- Contact with a confirmed case within 48 hours if the confirmed case is symptomatic
- Contact with a confirmed case within 24 hours if the confirmed case is asymptomatic.

If you have any questions regarding the above, I would advise you to contact your GP or the HSE as soon as possible.

Due to the nature of restricted movements as a result of testing for Covid 19, a number of Staff Members of the school are now on restricted movements until Saturday the 7th of November 2020. This means that they must not attend work until Monday 9th November 2020. Following consultation with Circular 005/2020 Appendix B, from the Department of Education and Skills, The Board of Management of St. Fergus National School has made the decision to close the school building for the week Monday 2nd to Friday 6th November (inclusive). This decision has been given much consideration and it is made due to the unforeseen ability of the school to function without sufficient number of permanent staff, in particular the Senior Management Team.

Thankfully, as a result of the earlier lockdown this year, the teaching staff and the Board have been making plans and putting supports in place, since September, for a second school closure. Each class has a platform in place (Seesaw or Class DoJo) to facilitate remote learning and teaching for the week in which the school building will be closed. Class and Special Education Teachers will be in touch in the coming days, through these platforms, to explain how they will continue teaching and learning for all between the 2nd and the 6th of November. I would ask that you keep an eye on your apps for this contact. Please be aware that if your child has access to SNAs they will be in touch with you daily to liaise about your child's sensory and movement break needs and to touch base with your son/daughter. School books and copies were sent home last Friday by ourselves (as in many schools) as a safety measure should an event such as this unfold.

I would like to thank you for your continued support of the School and its Staff and Board of Management as we attempt to navigate these uncertain waters which Covid19 has left us in. We are very aware that next week's unavoidable closure of school building may cause some difficulties for you. If you are unable to access the learning platforms or for whatever reason cannot complete the work set, we completely understand and will not be placing extra pressure on you or your child in this regard. Please do what you are able for.

While fourteen days will have passed since the closing of St. Fergus' NS when we return to the premises on Monday 9th November, I would please urge you to be ever vigilant for the symptoms and signs of Covid19 in your child.

- A new cough
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of sense of taste/smell
- Fatigue
- Stomach ache, diarrhea, vomiting

Do not send your child to school or childcare if any of the following is true.

Your child has:

- a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- any other common symptoms of Covid19 - a new cough, loss or changed sense of taste or smell, or shortness of breath
- been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19
- been living with someone who is unwell and may have COVID-19
- an existing breathing condition that has recently got worse

If your child has any of the common symptoms of COVID-19 you will need to:

1. Isolate your child from other people - this means keeping them at home and completely avoiding contact with other people, as much as possible.
2. Phone your GP - they will advise you if your child needs a COVID 19 test
3. Everyone that your child lives with should also restrict their movements, at least until your child gets a diagnosis from their GP or a COVID-19 test result. This means not going to school, childcare or work.
4. Treat your child at home for their symptoms.

Your child should only leave your home to have a test or to see your GP.

If your child has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 but has no symptoms, follow the advice for children who are close contacts.

Follow the advice from the HSE on what to do if your child:

- is given another diagnosis by your GP
- is not tested and is also not given another diagnosis from your GP
- tests positive for COVID-19
- tests not detected for COVID-19

Other symptoms

If your child has symptoms such as headaches or a sore throat, keep them at home for at least 48 hours. These are not common symptoms of COVID-19, but they could be a sign of another infection. You and the rest of your family can continue your normal routine. You do not need to restrict your movements as long as you are not ill.

Keep an eye on your child's symptoms for 48 hours. After 48 hours it's usually okay to send your child back to school or childcare as long as their symptoms do not get worse.

Thanking you for attention to this matter. Stay safe.

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Tommy Barrett

CHAIRPERSON

Deirdre Kennelly

PRINCIPAL