



SCOIL NÁISIÚNTA CHOLMÁCILLE NAOFA
CASTLEGAR
GALWAY
H91 F9K6

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Dear Parents,

We are delighted to be welcoming the children in Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1st and 2nd class back to the school building next Monday the 1st of March.

I have attached our COVID-19 Response plan and associated Appendices, I would ask that you read each document carefully, before your child returns to school.

These are indeed challenging and worrying times. We all have an important role in ensuring the safety of all and that Castlegar NS remains a COVID-19 free zone. As stated in the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) guidance on the re-opening of schools...

"Recognising infection is likely to be more difficult in people who are not able to describe their symptoms or communicate easily that they feel unwell however parents, SNAs, teachers and others who are very familiar with the baseline function of a child or young person may notice changes that suggest infection and may warrant medical assessment."

"School staff as well as pupils (as appropriate to their ability), their parents, guardians and families should be aware that they must not attend school or training if they have symptoms or signs that may suggest COVID-19 until they have taken appropriate medical advice and testing if appropriate. They should be aware that they should not attend school or training if they have been told they are close contacts of a person with COVID-19."

With this in mind, for the protection and safety of all, we need to be extra vigilant. If your child is showing any symptoms associated with COVID-19, please do not send them to school. **A precautionary approach is advised**, if your child is unwell, please do not send them to school.

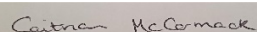
The Board of Management will continue to communicate regularly with staff and parents and we request that you keep yourself updated with all communications, giving the ever- changing nature of this pandemic. Each of us needs to take personal responsibility for our actions in relation to Covid-19 and we must all work together to ensure the safety of every child and adult in our school community. **We would remind all members of the school community of the dangers of spreading this virus through congregation of groups of people. Please be mindful of this in relation to dropping off and collecting children at the school entrance. Congregation at the school entrance or in the school car park is strictly prohibited.**

Before your child returns to school a declaration form must be filled and returned to the school. Please find the form below and return to the school before Friday 19th February.

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/educationguidance/Return%20to%20Educational%20Facility%20declaration%20form.pdf>

We sincerely look forward to seeing the children back in school setting.

Warm regards,



Caitriona McCormack
Acting Principal