



**CUSHINSTOWN
NATIONAL SCHOOL**

Newsletter October 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this email finds you well.

Food Dudes-Food Dudes is taking place in our school this week with students being offered some fruit and vegetables each day to try. Thanks to Ms. Nolan for all her hard work in organising Food Dudes Week.

Staffing-We wish Ms. Bracken all the best as she takes her leave and thank her for all her hard work. We welcome Mr. McDonald back next Monday to Third Class.

Child Protection and Supporting the Safe Provision of Schools Inspection-Our school recently had an inspection from the Department of Education regarding our Covid-19 procedures and protocols and Level One Child Protection. Please see report attached. Thank you to Ms. Amy Flynn who has volunteered to be our Lead Worker Representative this year. Thanks to Declan our caretaker, Emma our SNA and Jenny our secretary for their hard work last year and continued help and support in ensuring our safety re Covid-19 during this time.

GAA Skills: GAA Skills will continue for all classes with Adam Ryan each Monday. Children should wear their PE tracksuit and runners. GAA lunchtime skills will continue for Third class on Tuesday, Fourth Class on Wednesday, Fifth Class on Thursday and Sixth Class on Friday.

Healthy Lunches- Just a gentle reminder that treats should only be given on a Friday in the school lunches. The majority of children bring healthy lunches to school each day. Well done!

Fire Safety Training-Our school will close on Wednesday 20th October at 12 noon for all staff to attend in-service training in Fire Safety and Awareness. Further details will be sent next week regarding this.

Confirmation: Confirmation for our last years sixth class will take place this Saturday at 11am in Cushinstown church. We wish all our students a very special day and we hope they are getting on very well in Post Primary School.

Policies: Our school is currently updating our Health and Safety Statement, our Anti-Bullying Policy and procedures and our Supervision Policy. These are available in draft form on our website should any parent wish to provide feedback on these please contact me through the school office.

Parents Association AGM- The Parents Association are looking for new committee members for the current school year as some existing members step down, your involvement and support to take on a role would be greatly appreciated, AGM details to follow soon.

Covid-19-Reminder that as of Monday 27th September parents will not be informed of positive Covid cases in the school as per direction from the Department of Education. If your child has any symptoms please be vigilant and do not send them to school. Please see information note below.

Halloween Dress-Up-As usual the children are invited to dress up for Halloween on 22nd October 2021 if they wish.

Email Addresses-Please see the list of email addresses for teachers for 2021/2022 academic year attached to the newsletter.

School Payments-Outstanding payments to the school for the various school fees are now due. We respectfully ask that payments are made as soon as possible. If any family has a difficulty in making a payment they are asked to contact the school Principal in confidence to discuss the matter.

Yours Sincerely,

Carol O'Reilly

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Information for Parents about the changes to contract tracing and testing for children aged between 3 months and 13 years in Early Learning and Care (ELC) and School Age Childcare (SAC), education (primary school), sports, and social settings

What stays the same?

Children with symptoms - Public Health advice remains the same for any child aged between 3 months and 13 years of age with symptoms of COVID 19. They need to immediately self-isolate, stay at home, and you should contact their GP for advice and COVID 19 testing.

Children who are household close contacts - Children aged between 3 months and 13 years who are household contacts of a confirmed case of COVID 19 will still have to restrict their movements and get a COVID 19 test. A child under 13 who is not fully vaccinated, is a household contact if they were present overnight in a house or residential setting while a person with COVID 19 was infectious in that house. This may be their own home or if they were staying overnight with family or friends.

What will be different from Monday September 27th?

From Monday September 27th children who do not have symptoms of COVID-19 and may have been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in schools, childcare facilities, sports, and social settings, will not have to restrict their movements or get a COVID 19 test.

Questions parents or guardians might have

My child is a close contact from childcare, primary school, a sporting or

social event and they have not finished their 14 days restricted movements yet - can they go back to school on Monday 27th?

Yes, from Monday 27th, once your child has no symptoms of COVID 19 they can go back to their activities. Your child may have a test appointment booked, and may still receive a test appointment text message. They do not need to have this test. They do not need to keep restricting their movements. There is different advice for children who are household close contacts, and children who are close contacts from a setting such as a special education needs class or a respite care facility. Household close contacts. Children in a household where there is a positive case of COVID 19 will need to continue restricting their movements and follow the advice they got from the HSE. This will have explained whether they need to restrict their movements for 14 days or 17 days if there is ongoing household exposure. They will also need to have their COVID 19 tests.

Children in Special Education Needs schools, classes, respite care. Children in these settings can return on Monday once they have restricted their movements for 5 days and have no new signs or symptoms of COVID 19.

Will contact tracing of children happen in primary schools, childcare, SAC and ELC or social and sporting settings from Monday 27th September?

No, not routinely but in some circumstances, Public Health teams may still do a Public Health Risk Assessment. In more complex settings like respite care or SEN, Public Health will continue to do Public Health Risk Assessments. They will also provide advice and support.

Will the measures in place to deal with COVID 19 in these settings still remain in place?

Yes all infection prevention and control measures currently in place will remain.

What about specific settings e.g. Respite care, Special Educational Needs settings etc?

In these settings Public Health will continue to do Public Health Risk Assessments and provide advice and support. Public Health want all children without symptoms of COVID 19 to be able to participate in school and activities. However, in some instances it may still be that Public Health will need to ask some children to restrict their

movements. Any period of restricted movements for children in these settings will only be when needed and if necessary, and will now be for 5 days. Children who are close contacts in these settings will now only be offered 1 COVID 19 test. Testing will not be needed to end restricted movements after 5 days.

What should I do if I am concerned about my child's symptoms?

If you think your child has symptoms of COVID 19 you should immediately make sure they self-isolate. You should phone their GP for advice and guidance, and COVID 19 testing if the GP thinks it is necessary.

What about if my child has a mild symptom like a runny nose?

If your child has a runny nose, but is otherwise in good health and good form, then they can go to school. If your child has a runny nose and other symptoms and seems a little off form, then they should stay home from school or childcare. You should watch their symptoms and contact their GP for advice if you are worried. Children with chronic symptoms should not be regularly or routinely excluded from school or social and sporting settings.

Will Public Health teams still provide support and advice to schools? Public Health teams will continue to provide support to schools should it be clinically required.

Testing will be available for children for public health or clinical reasons, or after a Public Health Risk Assessment.

Why is this change happening?

We now know that children are more likely than adults, to have no COVID 19 symptoms or to have mild disease. When we looked at cases identified in school settings we see that child to child transmission in schools is uncommon. School transmission is not the main cause of Sars-CoV (COVID 19) infection in children, particularly in preschool and primary schools. Children are rarely identified as the route of transmission of infection into the household. Children are not more likely than adults to spread infection to others.

School Email Addresses 2021/2022

Class Teachers

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SNA's

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