Keeping our school a safe place.

Dear Parent /Guardian and Students,

We hope you are all having a nice easy start to your week.

We are continuing our preparations for your safe return to school and we eagerly look forward to having you all back together with us.

Last week, we sent you a number of reminders all of which remain accessible on our school app.

The focus of our communication today is *Face Coverings*.

Q: **What is a Face Covering?**

'A face covering is a material you wear that covers the nose and mouth.'

https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/face-masks-disposable-gloves.html

Q: **Why do we need to wear face coverings?**

'Wearing a face covering reduces the spread of coronavirus in the community. It helps to reduce the spread of respiratory droplets from people infected with coronavirus. This helps to stop people who are not aware they have the virus from spreading.'

https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/face-masks-disposable-gloves.html

Over the past weeks, we have all had to adapt to wearing face coverings and we do understand that this has not been easy for everyone. We do know that face coverings can feel uncomfortable and hot at times and can be especially challenging for example, for those of us who wear glasses. Despite these challenges we continue to wear them because it is recommended by the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (hpsc).

When you return to school, all students will need to wear face coverings throughout the day. In order to prepare for this we encourage all students to consider the following:

- ✓ Watch the video 'How to safely wear a face covering' available here:
  https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/aac74c-guidance-on-safe-use-of-face-coverings/

- ✓ Be familiar with the 'Do's and Don'ts' as outlined in the attached 'HSE Face Covering Poster'

https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/partner-resources/hse-face-covering-guidelines-poster-high-resolution.pdf

More information is available here: https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/face-masks-disposable-gloves.html

- ✓ Check that your face covering is made from a fabric that you are comfortable wearing.

- ✓ Check that it is easy to fit and completely covers your nose and mouth, all the way down under your chin.

- ✓ Practice safe removal and disposing of single use masks, where appropriate.

- ✓ Be familiar with how to safely use and wash a reusable mask, where appropriate. If you wish to make your own clothe face covering please find instructions here:

  https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/face-masks-disposable-gloves.html

We realise that there is a lot of information enclosed here and that perhaps some of you are familiar with it already.

We know that by following the latest recommendations of the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (hpsc) that we are doing all that we can to keep ourselves and everyone in our school safe.

Thank you all for taking the time to read this. If you have any queries or concerns, please do contact us at the school office.

Wishing you all a peaceful day,

Mr Eugene O'Brien,

Principal

Looking forward to seeing you all soon