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25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

As we prepare to welcome our Junior Infants - 2<sup>nd</sup> Class pupils back to school, I ask that you study the links below so that we can all work together in promoting a safe reopening of our school.

The safety of the children and staff of Rush National School is paramount. One of the key messages in order to manage the risk of Covid-19 is to do everything practical to avoid the introduction of Covid-19 into the school. If infection is not introduced it cannot be spread.

The following points are essential in the fight against Covid-19:

### **Return to Education Parental Declaration Form**

A “**Return to Education Parental Declaration Form**” must be completed for each pupil in Junior Infants - 2<sup>nd</sup> Class in advance of Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March. This form is available on the Aladdin Connect app under the ‘Attendance and Notes’ tab. The declaration can be accessed from 3:00 p.m. on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Symptoms**

In order to prevent the spread of Covid-19 it is important to know and recognise the symptoms. They are:

- ✓ High temperature
- ✓ Cough
- ✓ Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties
- ✓ Loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste.

### **Isolation Quick Guide**

If your child presents with any **one** of the Covid-19 symptoms listed above, you will be asked to collect them. Siblings can remain in school.

When a test is recommended by the doctor, siblings are not permitted in school.

If a negative test result is issued, siblings may return to school immediately. The child that was tested can return to school once they are 48 hours symptom free.

### **When Isolating**

It is important to keep your child at home if they have any of the symptoms listed above.

If your child is sent home from school, we will send their schoolbooks with them.

If your child is off school and does not have their schoolbooks with them, please contact the office and we will arrange a suitable time for their collection.

Principal: Morgan Doran

Deputy Principal: Norma McElligott

Your child's teacher will send an outline of the topics to be covered so that your child can keep in touch with their learning during their brief absence.

### **Travel from Abroad**

You are requested to follow the most up to date government guidelines.

### **Arrival/Dismissal from School**

Normal school times will apply.

Face masks must be worn by all adults once they enter the school campus.

All staff will be wearing face masks.

The main gate will open at 8:50 a.m. daily and the usual one way system will be in place.

Social distancing should be maintained at all times as you drop or collect your child from school.

Avoid congregating when dropping off or collecting your children.

### **Bubbles**

The 'bubble' system will remain in place i.e. each class will be a bubble and will not mix with other classes.

### **Hygiene**

Each classroom will be cleaned daily as per usual and stringent hand washing protocols remain in place.

### **Well-Being**

The past months have been extremely challenging for us all. The boys and girls of Rush National School have shown tremendous resilience and strength of character yet again but the school closure and the pandemic have impacted on us all. Therefore, we intend to place great emphasis on your child's well-being upon their return to school.

### **Homework**

No homework will be assigned to returning classes for the first week to allow the children to settle back to the routine of school life and to give parents a rest! Some reading and mental activities will be assigned in week two.

### **Socialisation**

For the first two weeks, each class will spend an additional 30 minutes a day in the school yard, in their 'bubbles', taking part in 'socialisation activities' under their teacher's supervision. The boys and girls have worked diligently throughout the school closure but have missed out on the crucial learning that takes place when interacting socially with their peers.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Class**

To the boys and girls of 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> class, we eagerly await your return and look forward to welcoming you back on the 15<sup>th</sup> March.

Finally, we would like to thank you, the parents and guardians, for all the support and cooperation that you have provided over the past weeks.

Kind regards and stay safe,



# Rush National School Links

## How You Can Help

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VzxWCdUkEmFonTS-N1TESrMERvB52gOx/view?usp=sharing>

## Accessing The School Campus

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dsuKqSIgaNe5o4zDQUfN0rsx-SH0O6ol/view?usp=sharing>

## Safety Measures

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f\\_05MHrilwhYKjwGUr-2TfRgOJmnMurT/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f_05MHrilwhYKjwGUr-2TfRgOJmnMurT/view?usp=sharing)

## Other Useful Links

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/#returning-to-school-spring-2021>

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/#health-advice-for-parents>

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/#wellbeing-advice-and-resources-during-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/your-questions-answered/>