



27th September 2020

Dear Parents

As you are no doubt aware there have been several confirmed positive Covid cases in our locality. We wish those people and their families a speedy recovery.

We have contacted the Public Health Agency this morning to see if we as a school need to do anything and they have told us that as we are not aware of any pupils or staff who have tested positive, school continues as normal. School had its usual enhanced clean on Friday afternoon and we will of course continue with our new routine of hand sanitising, hand washing and cleaning surfaces regularly throughout the school day.

It is important that if you or anyone in your household has symptoms, you should contact PHA and take their advice. It is also vital that you contact school if there is a positive case in your household. Our phone no is 02844614145, or e-mail at info@stpatrickspssaul.downpatrick.ni.sch.uk

Stay safe
M McGrath

Here is a wee reminder of what we sent out at the beginning of the school year:

As usual at the start of a school year children are beginning to feel the effects of coughs and sneezes. Children who are feeling unwell with temperatures, colds, flu, vomiting, diarrhoea earaches, sore throats etc should not be in school. This should always be the case.

- 1. They are miserable in school.*
- 2. They pass their illness on to their classmates.*
- 3. Minor illness can temporarily reduce the ability of the sick child's immune system to fight more serious infections.*

Consequently, they should stay at home and only come to school when the symptoms are cleared. School should be contacted via telephone to explain a child's absence, no written notes are to be sent into school. It is more important than ever now that we have Covid-19 to contend with. In the event of any positive cases, we will follow PHA advice completely.

Children MUST NOT ATTEND SCHOOL if they have COVID-19 symptoms:

- 1. A new and continuous cough**
- 2. High temperature/fever**
- 3. Loss or change in sense of smell or taste**



We are not trying to keep children out of school, rather we are endeavouring to keep our children, families and staff stay safe and healthy. Children have been brilliant at observing the new handwashing and sanitising routines under the supervision of staff. They are staying in their class bubbles while in school. They are working together and playing together during the day meaning social distancing is difficult within the bubble. Consequently, if one child or member of staff contracts Covid-19 all their bubble classmates and staff will be off school for 14 days. That's how important this fight against infection is, in terms of health and learning. Please err on the side of caution and keep your child at home if they are feeling in any way unwell. Any child who tells staff in school that they are feeling ill will be sent home. We have impressed on the children the need to be completely truthful with us about how they are feeling. It would be helpful for us all if you would reinforce this need to be honest with your child, that way we can eliminate unnecessary absences. If you must come to school to collect your child, we'll keep an eye out for you at the turning circle Parents should not come into the school grounds or building.

We need everyone to continue to support us in achieving our aim to keep our children, families, and staff safe and healthy and to keep our classrooms open. We want to continue hearing those happy voices, seeing those smiling faces, and having the opportunity to teach within the school environment for the rest of the school year. Let's keep up the great effort and stay ahead of this. With the situation changing so quickly we will do our best to keep you up to date. Here's a little poster that was shared with us last week.

LET'S ALL KEEP OUR SCHOOL SAFE

We need your help! We want everyone to be safe, healthy and enjoy school. So, make sure you follow these new rules...

IF YOU ARE SICK YOU MIGHT HAVE TO STAY AT HOME

Going to school is really important but if you have a bad cough or feel very warm, tell a grown up right away.

GIVE EACH OTHER SPACE

Keep a safe distance from your teachers and friends as much as you can. You should try to stay in your bubble.

CATCH YOUR COUGHS & SNEEZES

Cover your face with your elbow or use a tissue. (Don't forget to put used tissues in the bin!)

WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands lots of times during the day. (Make sure you wash them as soon as you get to school too!)

HOLD ONTO YOUR OWN ITEMS

You shouldn't share things like pencils, food and drinks with your friends.

IT'S OK TO HAVE QUESTIONS! YOU CAN ALWAYS ASK A PARENT, CARER OR TEACHER.

EDUCATION RESTART

WE ALL MUST DO IT TO GET THROUGH IT **STAY SAFE. SAVE LIVES.**

Department of Education
www.education-ni.gov.uk



Quick Guide to Coronavirus related absences

What to do if.....	Action needed	Return to school when
<i>My child has coronavirus symptoms</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL • Contact school daily • Self-Isolate • Get a test • Inform school immediately about the results of a test result 	The test comes back negative and they are fever free for 48 hours. <i>(48 hrs before returning even if test is negative.)</i>
<i>My child tests positive for coronavirus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the school immediately about the test result • DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL • Contact school daily • Self –isolate for at least 10 days 	They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of taste of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once infection is gone. If they continue to have a high temperature they should stay at home.
<i>Somebody in my household has coronavirus symptoms</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL for 14 days • Contact School Daily • Household member to get a test • Inform the school immediately about the test result. 	Stay at home for 14 days after the first person in your home started having symptoms.
<i>Somebody in my household has tested positive with Coronavirus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the school immediately about the test result • DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL • Contact school daily 	The child has completed 14 days of self-isolation
<i>The Track and Trace scheme has identified my child as a close contact of somebody with symptoms of confirmed coronavirus</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL • Contact school daily • Self-isolate for 14 days 	The child has completed 14 days of self-isolation.
<i>My child has travelled abroad and has to self-isolate as part of the quarantine process</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL • Contact school daily • Self-isolate for 14 days • Provide information to the school as needed 	When the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed
<i>Staff or pupils in my child's bubble have tested positive</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the school • DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL • Everyone in the bubble must self-isolate and take a test. 	When a negative test is confirmed or the necessary isolation period has been completed.