

Scoil Náisiúnta Chaisleáin Uí Liatháin

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Nuachtlitir na Bealtaine 2021

- **Healthy Eating Promotion:** As a health promoting school, we intend to do a special promotion of healthy lunches over the coming two weeks, **starting next Monday 24th May.** We ask all parents to encourage your child to make a special effort to have a healthy lunch each day over those two weeks in particular, putting an emphasis on fruit and veg. The class that makes the best effort will receive a small reward at the end of the promotion. Bí sláintiúil le bia sláintiúil!
- **Emergency Contact:** It is **absolutely essential** that parents (or your nominated emergency contact names) are contactable during the school day, particularly during the current pandemic but even at all times, in the event of an emergency. It is also vitally important to inform us of any changes to your contact details, if applicable. Go raibh maith agaibh.
- **WOW (Walk on Wednesday):** As part of the Green School initiative, we remind everybody of WOW (Walk on Wednesday) that we have promoted in previous years, where we encourage children (and parents / guardians) to walk, cycle or car-pool to school on Wednesdays (and other days also if possible, weather permitting). We have previously suggested for children who may not be able to walk the full distance from home to school for safety reasons, to leave the car at the Community Centre / Church car-park and walk / cycle the remainder of the journey, observing physical distancing as you walk.
- **Covid-19 Inspection:** The school was notified of a Covid-19 inspection by the Department of Education (DE) inspector immediately prior to Easter. The inspector found that we were fully compliant with all DE guidelines and made no recommendations for further action. The Report will be published on the DE website in due course. I'd like to express my sincere thanks to all school staff, pupils and parents for continued vigilance around Covid-19 and with the effort everybody makes to the virus. Go raibh míle maith agaibh.
- **Turas Scoile:** Rang 6 and their teachers had a very enjoyable school tour to Ballyhass Lakes recently. Due to the on-going Covid-19 situation, we decided that we would only

take Rang 6 on a school tour this year, as it is their final year in primary school. Hopefully, all classes will be able to go on a school tour again in 2022.

- **Dúnadh Scoile / School Closures:**

- The school will be closed on **Monday 7th June** (Public Holiday)

- The school will close for the **Summer Holidays on Friday 25th June** and will re-open for the new school year on **Tuesday 31st August 2021**.

- Please find the School Closures Calendar for next year (2021 – 2022) attached.

- **Eolas re. Covid:** The following Qs and As may be useful to you, as parents, around symptoms of Covid / restricting movements / Positive – Negative Test results

Q: If a pupil/student has symptoms which may be consistent with COVID-19 – what does the parents/ guardian need to do?

A: If a child has symptoms which could be consistent with COVID-19, the parents/guardians should call their GP. Their GP will decide whether they should be tested for COVID-19. If the GP determines that the child does need a COVID-19 test, it is at this point that all of their household contacts are asked to restrict their movements. This means that siblings or staff members in the same household as the person who has symptoms should be removed from the school setting. Only the symptomatic case is asked to self-isolate.

Note: there will be many cases where testing is determined not to be required, for example, because the GP thinks that the child's symptoms are not due to COVID-19 and might be due to another cause.. If the GP does not recommend COVID testing, and it is early in the child's illness, the recommendation is to observe the child for 48 hours and if no further symptoms develop, then they can return to school. If the GP has made a different diagnosis, parents/guardians should follow advice and recommendations on exclusion depending on this diagnosis.

Q: If a test comes back as “not detected” for a symptomatic pupil/student/staff member, will the person still be required to restrict their movements and why?

A: Yes. If the person receives a negative / 'not detected' test result, the person should remain at home until they are well enough to return to school, unless parents/guardians of (pupil/students) or staff members are specifically asked by HSE public health to remain excluded because of further investigation. A pupil/student /staff member can return to their normal activities, once they have been given either:

- a negative ('not-detected') test result and are 48 hours without symptoms or
- another diagnosis, which is not COVID-19. Those who live with the person will then no longer need to restrict their movements

Q: If a test comes back 'SARS-CoV-2 detected' (confirmed case of COVID-19) will the pupil /student/staff member still be required to self-isolate?

A: If a person was symptomatic for COVID-19 they should already be self-isolating. If a close contact who was restricting their movements receives a positive COVID-19 test result (SARS-CoV-2 detected), they are now a confirmed case of COVID-19 and must self-isolate; additionally, their close contacts including household contacts must now also start restricting their movements. They may already have been restricting their movements, however if only one person in the house was deemed a close contact from an exposure outside the house e.g. in the school, then the other family members would not have been restricting their movements until this point.

Q: If a pupil/student//staff member has tested positive for COVID-19 and self-isolated for 10 days thereafter, can they return to school/work?

A: Yes, provided the following applies:

- they have self-isolated for 10 days from onset of symptoms with last 5 days without a fever (high temperature (38 degrees Celsius or over) or
- if they were asymptomatic they must have self-isolated for 10 days from date of test)

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Nelius de Róiste (Príomhoide)