

St. Colmcille's NS
Ballinahown,
Athlone,
Co. Westmeath



Phone: (090) 643 0044
Email: office@ballinahownns.ie,
Website: www.ballinahownns.ie

September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would firstly like to welcome all our pupils back to school. We have had a great start to this year and we hope that we can continue this for the coming months. Our pupils are getting familiar with the new school setting and procedures in line with Covid 19 Guidelines. Thank you to the parents who have had to deal with cold and flu symptoms over the past fortnight and how you have adhered to guidelines.

Well done to everyone in the school community who has been putting up to the changes that we have had to enforce.

There are a few points to highlight to all parents as we venture through Covid together. We, as a school team are doing our very best to ensure our school is a calm, friendly and secure place for all our pupils and our emphasis is the wellbeing of all our children and staff.

Please familiarize yourselves with the guidelines from the HSE in relation to signs and symptoms of Covid, dealing with a child who is sick, and procedures to follow if you have been in close contact with a confirmed case of Covid.

Please keep the school informed of any of the above, and always proceed with caution in relation to Covid. Advance notice for Covid 19 related issues is essential in maintaining our school during these difficult times. Therefore, any doubt or confusion surrounding Covid should be communicated with the school in good time.

If your child will be out of school, you can notify the school via email at office@ballinahownns.ie or keena.t@ballinahownns.ie.

The school phone number is 09064 30044. However we do not have a full time secretary on phones so you may have to leave a message. For other short periods of absence, a note to the teacher on the child's return is sufficient.

Symptoms of Covid include:

High Temperature.

- Coughing.
- Shortness of Breath
- Loss of taste, smell.

- If you or a family member has been in contact with a confirmed case, it is advised to get tested and await test results. Pupils should not attend school if they, or a close contact is awaiting Covid test results.

- If the test is negative, a pupil is advised to remain at home in self isolation for a period of 48 hours, if there are no symptoms.
- If there are symptoms, and the test is negative, the pupil is advised to remain at home for 48 hours after the symptoms disappear.

- If a test is positive for a pupil or a close contact, that pupil must self- isolate for a period of 14 days, and should not return to school if symptoms are present after the 14 days. It is the parent's obligation to inform the school Principal, without delay of this situation to allow safety procedures to be implemented in a fast and effective manner.
- In the event of a pupil testing positive for Covid 19 and is self-isolating, the school will support the parent with a list of activities that can be done during this period.
- If your child is feeling unwell and displaying symptoms that are not Covid symptoms, it is advised that you stay at home for a minimum of 2 days and you monitor their symptoms during this time.

Personal Pupil Accident Insurance

Please find attached the form to be completed for Personal Pupil Accident Insurance. We had a huge uptake in this insurance last year with over 80% of the children taking out personal insurance.. We would recommend that you consider taking the €9 option. This is separate to the school's insurance. It is a personal insurance with many benefits. Please fill it in and return to school before next Tuesday 15th of September.

Days off in School Year 2020	
Halloween (closed Mon-Fri incl.)	26/10/20 to 30/10/20
December closed Friday	4/12/2020
Christmas Hols,Closed Tues@12:00	23/12/20 to 5/01/21. Open Wed 6th
Feb Mid Term Break	18/02/20 and 19/02/20
St Patrick's Day	Closed 17/03/21
Easter Holidays	Closing Fri 26th March @12:00 for 2 weeks
May Public Holiday	Closed Friday and Monday, 30/04/21 and 3/05/21
June Public Holiday	Closed Monday 07/06/21
June Closed Friday	Friday 04/06/21
Summer Holidays, Wed @ 12:00	23/06/21
Calendar and Newsletters will be on our website	

Is Mise Le Meas

Thomas Keena