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Unwinding of Covid 19 Mitigation Measures.

Guidance has been issued to schools regarding the removal of some Covid 19 mitigation measures. Much of this will affect our in-school operations and will not be visible/ obvious to parents. I have outlined the key points that will need to be taken into consideration below.

Given the few years we have all been through this is very welcome news and we are all looking forward to a return to normal. However, the reality is that at this moment in time cases of Covid 19 in our school are higher than they have been at any point in the past. There is a need to remain vigilant and exercise common sense in the coming months.

I can be contacted using the details above if you have any queries in relation to the contents of this letter.

Regards,
Joe.

The Following arrangements will commence from Monday 7th March:

- **Single Start and Finish Times**
School will start for all students at **9.00 am**
Junior and Senior Infants will finish at **1.40 pm**
All other classes will finish at **2.40 pm**
Children should not arrive at the school yard until **8.50 am**
- **Mask wearing**
Mask wearing is no longer mandatory for students or staff but is a matter of personal choice.
- **Hygiene**
Hand washing, sanitizing and enhanced cleaning regimes remain in place
- **Staying at home if you have symptoms**
The requirement to stay at home if you have symptoms remains – for students and staff alike. One of the key messages to manage the risks 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.
- **Face to face meetings**
Face to face meetings with school staff are once again possible and encouraged. Where possible please make contact to pre arrange any meetings. Staff can still be contacted by phone, email or remote learning platforms.

- **Antigen testing arrangements for children in primary schools.**
As part of the transition arrangements the HSE will continue with the current processes to support the provision of antigen tests to primary schools. The Antigen Free phone number is: 1800 110055 or parents may order antigen tests online via www.hse.ie/schooltest. The call center opening hours are 8:45am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays). The online portal will remain operational 24/7.
- **School Events**
Singing, concerts assemblies, plays, school sports are all back in play. We will be in touch in the coming weeks with news relating to these types of activities.
- **Medical declarations**
Medical declarations are no longer required. Absence notes should still be sent/emailed in when your child returns to school. Whenever a child is out of school without a note the absence is recorded as “Unexplained” which looks bad when a child is reported to the Education Welfare Officer/ TUSLA for having missed more than 20 days of school.
- **Infant Home Time**
Parents may come into the yard again to collect younger children at the end of the day. This allows for much easier informal parent teacher communication.