**Re: Coronavirus - COVID-19**

In a proactive response to the positive diagnosis of Coronavirus in Ireland, it is our aim to protect our pupils, their families, our staff and the wider community, where possible, from contracting or transmitting the virus.

The pupils are advised daily of the importance of regular hand hygiene and we have installed alcohol gel dispensers around the school. Hand washing with warm soapy water is the number one way to prevent the spread of this infection. Pupils have been informed about the risk of touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. We encourage you as Parent(s)/Guardian(s) to reinforce this message within the home. The correct coughing technique has been demonstrated to the pupils and is another effective measure to prevent cross contamination. Coughing into the elbow in a downward motion is advised.

Our care takers and support staff have been given clear guidelines as recommended by the HSE on how to clean and disinfect all frequently touched surfaces.

We ask that **any pupil or family member** who has been in the affected areas of China or Northern Italy, to self-isolate for the recommended 14 days in your own home. Any pupils who are at risk, directly or by being in close proximity to another person who has returned from Northern Italy, are exempt from attending school, for the health and safety of all concerned.

Close contact can mean spending more than 15 minutes within 2 metres of an infected person, or living in the same house or shared accommodation as an infected person.

If your son is ill in any way, please keep him at home until he is well. In the event that symptoms of a sore throat with a fever followed by a cough or shortness of breath develop, you are recommended to contact your GP by telephone. DO NOT present in person to your doctor. Instructions will be given to you over the phone.

**References:**

Health Service Executive <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/>

*Yours sincerely,*

*Michael Carew (Principal)*