

St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

10 Whites Road, Cabragh, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, BT70 3AN

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Acting Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn



16th December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Since we returned to School in August we have done everything possible to reduce COVID-19 from coming into our school. Unfortunately, we have had positive cases and have had to close class bubbles, all of which have been dealt with in line with PHA advice. You will be aware of how disruptive this has been and the impact that it has had on children having to isolate for two weeks and not being able to mix with their friends and extended family.

Over the last few weeks within our local community and the wider area there has been an increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases and we are still very concerned for you and your children and would be very disappointed and upset if any family or child could not enjoy this Christmas season.

We all have our part to play to keep COVID-19 at bay and we need to be extra vigilant and re-double our efforts to suppress the virus during the coming days and weeks.

It is important that we are all familiar with the Public Health Agency guidance. To ensure the continued safety of our school community it is important that you-

1. Do **not** send your child to school;
 - if they are displaying symptoms such as a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of taste or smell.
 - **if someone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms.**
 - **if anyone in the household is waiting for the result of a COVID-19 test.**
 - if anyone in the household tests positive for COVID-19 and is self-isolating.
 - if you have been notified that your child has been in close contact with someone who has received a positive COVID-19 test.
2. Book a COVID-19 test immediately, if you, your child or a member of your family household have COVID-19 symptoms.
3. Inform the school immediately about test results.
4. Ensure that **ALL** members of the household isolate when there has been a positive test result within the family household.
5. Avoid large gatherings and follow social distancing regulations at the school gate to ensure the health and well-being of all our school community.
6. Wear face masks while dropping off or collecting children from school.

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Our children have been exemplary in following the guidance and new routines and procedures in school. However, over the Christmas break, we must continue to be extra vigilant and continue to carefully follow the Public Health Agency guidance to avoid the spread of the virus.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Use hand sanitiser regularly.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.
- Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.
- Keep social distancing rules.
- Follow the guidance regarding households mixing.

How you can help your child to stay safer online over the Christmas break and beyond!

This year, many of us will be relying on technology over the festive period for entertainment and most importantly, to keep in touch with friends and family. It is likely your child will have asked for some form of internet-enabled technology for Christmas. Be it a new smartphone, tablet or the latest games console. While their device will provide them with hours of entertainment and the opportunity to connect with family and friends they can't meet with face-to-face, **it can also present new risks.** It is very important that parents remain vigilant over the Christmas break and ensure Parental Controls are set on all electronic devices and carefully monitor the children's internet use.

Here are a few resources to help you ensure that your children have a safer online experience over the Christmas break. Please also see the school website- Parent Area /E-Safety for further advice and guidance.

A parent's guide to being social online this December.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/parents-guide-being-social-online/>

Parents and carers presentations

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/professionals/resources/parents-and-carers-presentations/>

Short videos for parents and carers: delivering online safety at home.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/presentations-for-parents/>

As we approach the end of term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support over the past few months. On behalf of all the staff in St. Mary's, I would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas. We hope everyone in our school community stays safe and well over Christmas and into the new Year.

Take care and God Bless,

Louise Quinn

