

**RATHFARNHAM**



EDUCATE TOGETHER  
NATIONAL SCHOOL

## **Weekly Update 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Athbhliain faoi shéan is faoi mhaise daoibh go léir agus fáilte rómhaibh ar ais ar scoil.

Happy New Year and welcome back to school.

**Important information for parents/guardians about the COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5-11- please see: [Important Information for Parents/Guardians about COVID-19 Vaccine for Children aged 5-11](#)**

### **COVID Update**

Public Health continues to advise that the most important action to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 (and other respiratory viruses), is ensuring no-one with new onset symptoms attends school.

Symptom profiles are available at <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/overview/>.

Parents / Guardians are advised to take a precautionary approach, particularly for children less able to articulate their symptoms. If a child appears unwell, observe them at home and contact your GP as appropriate.

Public Health has confirmed that there is no change to infection prevention and control measures.

When we are notified that a child who has been in school during the infectious period has a positive (detected) COVID-19 PCR test result, parents of other children in the pod will be informed so that they can access free antigen tests for their children. If there is more than one PCR positive case in a class, then antigen tests can be arranged for the entire class.

All children in the pod/class can continue to attend school as long as they remain asymptomatic and they do not have a positive COVID-19 antigen or PCR test result. Children who have symptoms of COVID-19 should stay at home, isolate and arrange to have a PCR test, either online or through a GP.

### **Close contacts**

Children under 13 years who are household close contacts must restrict their movements for 14 days and they will be offered PCR testing at day 0 and day 10. On receipt of a day 10 not-detected PCR test result, they may exit restricted

movements. It is important that anyone who has been identified as a close contact, is very aware of COVID-19 symptoms, and isolate and undergo testing should they develop any symptoms.

Please see attached the latest version of the Isolation quick guide for parents and guardians of children older than 3 months and up to 13 years of age V3.3.

31.12.2021 [Isolation Quick Guide for Under 13s](#)

### **Informing the school of absences**

It is essential that all absences are explained on Aladdin Connect. This will help us react to any COVID cases among children and will prevent your child's absence being recorded as 'unexplained'.

### **Dressing for the weather**

Ventilation (keeping windows open whenever possible) will continue to be a key strategy in limiting the spread of COVID in RETNS. Unfortunately, this Omicron phase coincides with what are usually the coldest months of the year. Please ensure your child is warmly dressed for both indoors and out.

### **Keeping in touch with staff**

I appreciate that it can be frustrating not to have the easy access to teachers that was a feature of RETNS in pre-pandemic times. However, you are always welcome to arrange a meeting through Carol at [info@retns.ie](mailto:info@retns.ie).

I wish our school community all the best for the term ahead

Le dea-ghuí

Maeve