



## Allen National School

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Registered Charity Number: 20124496

30<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Firstly, many thanks for your co-operation and support on Thursday and Friday - it was lovely to see you all and all the children after such a long time.

I visited all the classes and everyone seemed very happy to be back in school!! It will take a little time for all the new procedures to become embedded but we all got off to a great start.

I want apologise that the gate of the car park across from the school was not open for you on Friday afternoon - that was my fault crossed wires I thought someone was opening it and they thought I was!! So that should not happen again - but if it did can the first person up just phone into us and we'll run out and open it.

I am happy with all of the new procedures except the afternoon collections at 2:15pm and 2:30pm. At present, we have split the pick-up but it is still too busy and too hard for staff to see you and to watch where the children are going. You have to bear in mind that your child's new class teacher won't necessarily know you to see so they need you to move forward to 'claim' your child. You must also bear in mind staff are on high alert from a child protection perspective and won't release the pupil to anyone they don't recognise. My main concern, given present circumstances, is the number of adults standing in close proximity to each other.

A parent very kindly shared a method used by a summer camp and it might be worth trying. The concept is that parents collecting pupils in 1st to 6th classes would park and remain in their cars until they receive a text message to say come across and pick up your child now. So if 6th class came out all sixth class parents would get a text and they would come across collect and return to their car. Then 5th, 4th and so on. This would limit the number of adults gathering to pick up to a max of 32. I will set this up tomorrow on our system and maybe we can try it from Tuesday on and see how you find it.

While I am on the topic of collecting - full marks to parents of Senior Infants for their organisation - it was very impressive - well done to one and all!!

I am attaching a very important document, which outlines procedures for schools, and parents in relation to suspected and confirmed cases of Covid 19 were one to arise. It is called Schools Pathways for Covid 19 The Public Health Approach - I have summarised it for you

and have highlighted in yellow key parent responsibilities in the second document I am attaching.

The report outlines that investigations of cases identified in school settings suggest that **child to child transmission in schools is uncommon** which is good news, but should not be a cause for complacency.

Critically you as a parent have a responsibility for **ASSESSING YOUR CHILD'S FITNESS TO ATTEND SCHOOL. THE REPORT OUTLINES:**

"Children with a blocked or runny nose, but no fever can attend school or childcare, **but if they require paracetamol or ibuprofen for their symptoms, they must not attend school for 48 hours and GP assessment for testing is indicated.** Therefore, if you have to administer medication to your child you should contact your GP and seek advice.

Parents are advised to check their child's temperature before sending them to school.

Remember children can present with no symptoms or very mild symptoms, so don't overlook it if they say they feel unwell, establish why they are feeling unwell and seek advice from your GP if you think they have any symptoms.

It is vitally important that we have the correct contact numbers for you. If you, or any of the contacts you have listed for your child, have changed phone numbers **it is your responsibility to ensure you inform us.** It is crucially important that you or a person nominated by you can come to the school at relatively short notice (within 10 minutes) should your child become ill. Remember that those in vulnerable groups and/or aged over 70 years should not be collecting children who may be displaying symptoms of Covid -19. Also remember that children have gone home feeling unwell long before we ever heard of covid-19 so if you get a call and we tell you your child is not feeling well, it is more likely to be for a more common reason than it is to be covid-19.

We are a united and strong school community (pupils - parents - staff -Board Members) who can get through this together - we can mind one another if we all play our part and act responsibly and sensibly. We are in this together so that some degree of normality can return to the lives of our children and indeed to our own lives. Remember it is

Please read the summary document attached first and then read the full document for further details.

Again thanks you for your co-operation

Kind regards

Ms McDonagh