

St. Michael's & St. Patrick's N.S.

Cootehall,

Boyle.

Roll No.19720P

071-9667264

www.cootehallns.com

August 29th, 2020

Dear Parents.

We are looking forward to welcoming everybody back to school for the 2020/2021 school year on Tuesday September 1st.

We feel that we have the procedures in place to ensure that this will be a safe re-opening. It will take some time for all of us to get used to the "new circumstances" as we become familiar with the new routines and procedures designed to keep everyone safe and to prevent the spread of the virus. There will, undoubtedly, be some unforeseen challenges and we will regularly review our procedures and adjust things, as necessary.

Based on information received from the Department of Education, please be advised of the following protocols our school:

No person (child, teacher, or parent) should attend the school if unwell or any members of their household are unwell with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and should immediately phone their doctor and follow HSE guidance on self-isolation.

If pupils are sick, parents **MUST** Consult the HSE Advice for Parents before deciding if they are able to present for school.

However, children may also continue to display symptoms of many other circulating respiratory viruses. It is known that young children often have a persistent cold. **A child with a blocked or runny nose, but no fever can attend school but if they require paracetamol or ibuprofen, they must stay at home for 48 hours** and parents or guardians should contact the GP to assess whether a test is required. **In the case of diarrhoea all symptoms need to have been resolved for 48 hours prior to return to school.**

We would like to thank you for your co-operation in preparing to date and look forward to working with you as we assist the children adapt to the necessary changes.

As a school, we are very aware that the children have been away from school since March 12th. We appreciate the time and effort that went into Home Learning and we recognise that each child will be in a different place in relation to his/her learning. We wish to assure you that staff will take that into consideration when planning for Teaching and Learning during the 2020/2021 school year.

The Department of Education and Skills has published Curriculum guidelines for schools, as we work with all the children during the return to school. Initially there will be a focus on Language, Numeracy,

SPHE and PE. As advised by the National Educational Psychological Services we will need to “Slow down to catch up”.

We know the children are looking forward to coming back to school especially to meet their friends again. We have great children in our school, and we know that they will put their best foot forward.

So, children don't forget to smile, enjoy meeting up with your friends (and your teachers) and of course always do your best! See you all Tuesday.

If you have any queries, please e-mail the school at cootehallns@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Cían Duffy,
Principal.

Cora Regan,
On behalf of the Board of Management.