

## ST JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOLS COMPLEX

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10 March 2020

*Dear Parents, Guardians and members of our School Community,*

*Following a number of inter-school meetings and having considered all information & advice available on a national level, this is **our response in relation to Covid-19 at this time.***

*The wellbeing of our pupils and the wider community is at the centre of our response which is as follows:*

**Assemblies:** Morning assemblies, where applicable, will be suspended until further notice. The children will therefore be going directly to their classrooms. Gatherings of more than one year grouping will be avoided where possible.

**Personal Hygiene Kit:** Each child in school is asked to bring in the following on a daily basis as soon as possible: A packet of tissues, **a personal hand towel** (washed daily) in a washbag/ziplock bag. All class towels will be washed daily, but it's preferable for each child to have their personal kit.

### **Teaching and Learning:**

- We are going to approach this positively at this time, seeing it as a learning opportunity.
- We will focus on how our skin protects us and how pupils have fought off many viruses over the years- e.g. the chicken pox.
- We will look at how we share the world with bacteria and examples of how it can help us- e.g. gut digestion.
- N.B. – We will spend time teaching our pupils how to really give your hands a good clean. (20/30 seconds- Palms/Back of hands/ Nails etc.)
- We will display good hand hygiene signs over each sink and throughout the school.
- We also get a sense from the pupils that radio/ news bulletins and YouTube videos are causing undue anxiety and fear and we ask that you might keep an

eye on that at home. We will be doing so here in school. Also, pupils are very worried about elderly or immunocompromised relatives. It is best not to focus on the reassurance that if you are young you are safe as their minds will automatically wander to those who are not as safe.

**Handwashing:** Effective and regular hand washing is crucial. The following schedule of handwashing will be implemented.

- On arrival at school in the morning
- Before sos
- After sos
- Before lón
- After lón
- Before leaving school. We ask that you make sure that they wash their hands when they get home.

**Hand to hand contact:** We will be discouraging any hand contact at this time.

**Sneezing:** We are encouraging all children to sneeze into their elbow(s).

**Avoid contact with face where possible:** The virus cannot survive unless you put it into your body- through putting your hands to your eyes/ nose/ mouth etc. Therefore, we should all avoid touching our faces as much as possible.

**Access to school:** If you are visiting the school, please ensure you always report to the school office. At this time, we ask that parents/guardians do not visit the classrooms unnecessarily.

*All in our school community will be making a huge effort to ensure the school environment is as sanitised as is possible. Pupil desks will be cleaned daily along with handrails, door handles etc. To summarise, we can do little things to limit/slow down the spread of the virus and we seek your co-operation to do so.*

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/coronavirus/coronavirus.html>

**Mary Andrews, Will Ryan and Elma Cooke**