

BALLYORAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal | Mr Richard Woolsey, BEd (Hons), PQH



9th November 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Covid-19 and Other Sickness

I hope that this letter finds you well.

Like many schools, we are experiencing a high volume of pupil absences due to sickness at the moment. I would like to remind parents that you must let the school know if a child is off sick so that the proper absence code can be applied to their absence when the teacher is marking the roll. If no reason for absence is given it will be marked as an Unauthorised Absence. This can be done by emailing jsloan341@c2kni.net, leaving a phone message by pressing Option 1 or sending in a note to the teacher.

If your child has a positive Covid-19 Test result, you must let the school know, unfortunately this is not happening in all cases. We continue to take a cautious approach in relation to Covid-19 and make no apologies for this. With this in mind, I would again ask that if anyone in your household tests positive for Covid-19, then pupils are not sent to school. This is to protect our school community as much as possible as we have seen in many cases that when one person gets Covid-19 in a household the other children eventually get it as well. For those of you who are worried about attendance, Covid-19 absences will not negatively impact a pupil's attendance and we have decided this year that Covid-19 absences will not impact on a child receiving credit for full attendance at the end of the year.

As we approach the winter months, as well as Covid-19, we will have the normal seasonal flu and bugs, so I would remind parents that if a child has vomiting or diarrhoea, they should be kept at home and not return to school for 48 hours after their last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea.

Please see more detailed guidance on how long you need keep pupils at home, when they are sick at:

<https://tinyurl.com/yrypxhhj>

<https://tinyurl.com/2ftth5j5>

Finally, can I appeal to parents not to send children to school if they are not well enough to be here, this is not fair on the child and it puts the health of other pupils and staff at risk.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation as we try to keep the entire school community safe during these challenging months.

Yours faithfully
Richard Woolsey
Principal