

*Scoil Naomh Mearnóg,  
Bóthar na Trá,  
Portmearnóg,  
Co. Átha Cliath*



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**10<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Unfortunately due to the current high rates of Covid-19 transmission in the community, there are a number of families in our school affected at present. We wish all of them a speedy recovery. Respiratory infections are also particularly prevalent at the moment. All of us here in St. Marnock's are doing everything we can to minimise the risk of Covid-19 by ensuring all health and safety measures outlined in our Covid Response Plan are being implemented.

We kindly request that all parents continue to exercise the same vigilance by not sending their children to school if they are any way unwell or displaying any Covid-19 symptoms. I emailed all parents **the Department of Education link below regarding the list of Covid-19 symptoms** last week and I am including it here again below for your information. I am also attaching the **HSPC Isolation Quick guide for parents** which provides clear advice relating to Covid-19. All of this information is also available on our website [www.stmarnocksns.ie](http://www.stmarnocksns.ie).

**Department of Education Link:**

Please see link below for parent-focused public health advice about COVID-19 symptoms. It contains useful information regarding a list of symptoms to check before sending your child to school. The HSE advises that if your child has any new onset of symptoms and feels unwell or seems off form, do not send them to school and contact your GP for advice if necessary.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a04fc-advice-for-students-and-their-families/#health-advice-for-parents>

As Covid-19 protocols apply to the entire school community, we are experiencing a greater level of staff absence as everyone adheres to public health advice. We are making every effort to find substitutes but as you have no doubt heard in the national media, there is a severe teacher substitute crisis and it is becoming increasingly difficult on a daily basis to have cover in place in all classes. I would like to reassure you that we are doing our very best with regard to all of this and it would obviously be a last resort to have to send a class home but this may be a possibility in the coming weeks if the situation does not improve. Therefore we are strongly relying on your full co-operation and support with regard to following public health advice in order to keep all of our classes open.

Thank you for your continued co-operation and support,

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Sinéad Trimble