

A thuismitheoirí,

Ar an Aoine seo caite d'fhógair an Taoiseach go raibh an rialtas ag cuir deireadh le formhór na srianta Covide sa tír agus go raibh an tsochaí ag athoscailt arís.

Cuireann Gaelscoil an Ghoirt Álainn fáilte mhór roimh an dea-scéal seo agus táimid ag tnúth leis an saol a bheith athoscailte go hiomlán arís go luath.

Mar scoil áfach caithfimid a bheith cúramach. Táimid buartha i dtaobh na seachtainí atá romhainn agus an baol atá ann go mbeidh méadú mór cásanna covide againn sa scoil arís. Iarraimid oraibh ar fad an nóta seo a léamh, cloí leis na treoracha atá ann do pháistí bunscoile agus gan do pháiste a chur ar scoil má tá comharthaí covid air nó uirthi.

On Friday of last week, the Taoiseach announced the lifting of most of the Covid restrictions that had been in place and that society could begin to reopen.

Gaelscoil an Ghoirt Álainn welcomes this good news and we look forward to living in a society that is once again free from Covid restrictions very soon.

As a school we would strongly urge all parents to remain cautious however. As you would have seen from our previous messages, we have been dealing with a large number of Covid-19 cases in our school since returning from our Christmas break. I'm sure it has been a worrying and stressful time for the families that were involved and we send them our good wishes. Although the situation has undoubtedly been very difficult here at school since Christmas, we have successfully kept classes open and the school experience for our children has returned to being relatively normal. The next few weeks, up to mid-term break, look like they may be a bit more challenging and we are nervous of possibility that there will be an increase in cases in our school community during this period.

As the rest of society is opening up it would be easy to relax and think this pandemic is over. Unfortunately, it is far from over and we need to be extra cautious particularly at school. While many children will only have mild symptoms, there are some more severe cases and we don't want any of our children to experience these. I would ask you all to remain vigilant and to make sure to keep your child at home if they are displaying any symptoms at all. If you can at all, I would encourage you to test your child(ren) regularly with antigen tests to help us all out. A lot of children are asymptomatic while infectious so this would help to prevent the spread in our community. All of the procedures in place in schools are to remain the same until February 28th as outlined by the Department of Education.

Our pupils, staff and families have stuck together excellently over the last two years and we are nearly there. I would like to thank all of our families in our school for being so diligent and responsible since the onset of this pandemic. By responding appropriately and particularly by testing quickly, your actions have helped to minimise the impact of Covid on our school community.

I am attaching the most recent HSPC isolation guide so you can see for yourself the different scenarios. It is really important that you don't send your child back too soon after a positive test and that you follow the close contact advice of 10/14 days of restricted movements ensuring the wearing of a mask for days 8, 9, 10 no matter the age or exemption of a child.

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a->

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