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# Holy Family Community School

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Pobalscoil an Teaghlaigh Naofa

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17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

This has been a challenging year for everyone, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. The entire school community has worked incredibly hard to allow teaching and learning to continue in as normal a manner as possible in the current conditions. I understand the stress and worry of sending your children to school and in light of that, I wish to clarify some issues that are creating unnecessary distress.

- The school, as of today, has a total of 3 students out of 963 who currently have a positive Covid 19 result. The Year Groups are 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year. Close contacts have been identified, told to isolate and will be tested.
- There are 6 staff who currently have a positive Covid 19 result. These are the first positive cases on the staff since we returned to school in August. Close contacts have been identified, told to isolate and have been tested. Every single close contact result that has come back to date has been negative.
- There are not 12 current student cases in the school as reported on social media. This is the number of cases since the start of the academic year including staff. The school had no notified cases for many weeks until last week.
- Two year groups, Transition Year and 5<sup>th</sup> Year (including LCA1), were asked to engage in online learning this week due to a staff shortage. This action was taken to ensure that the school could safely continue to open.
- There has been complete transparency regarding notifying the school community about positive cases. However, there is a limit to the amount of information that can be shared. All students and staff have a right to have their personal data protected, as per Data Protection legislation.
- The school is bound to follow instructions issued by Public Health and the Department of Education and Skills.
- Parents/ Guardians with any concerns can always contact the school for information. Please do not rely on social media for information as the facts will not always be clear.

Finally, I would like to say that I understand that you may have decided to keep your child at home this week to isolate as you wish to spend Christmas day with vulnerable or elderly family members. In the new year, the work will commence again and as a community we will start the year filled with hope for a happy and safe future. I wish you and your family a very happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Ingrid Fallon,

Principal