



Villiers School

Celebrating 200 Years

Wednesday 5th January 2022

Dear Parents and / or Guardians,

While the Christmas break may not have been all that we had wished for, and while once again, many of us have had to deal with the unwelcome complications caused by Covid-19, I sincerely hope that all in the Villiers community were able to enjoy some restful family time during the past two weeks.

Villiers School will reopen as planned tomorrow, Thursday 6th of January 2022. Boarders may return tonight from 8-9 pm. The Easter term begins with many challenges, caused by the continuing impact of the virus, however, we are determined to do all that we can to ensure that Villiers remains as safe as possible.

To assist with this, we are requesting parents take two additional steps, if possible, before sending their student back to school.

- If possible, please carry out an antigen test on your student before they return to school.
- If possible, please provide your student with medical grade masks in place of cloth masks for use in school.

Not every family may be able to follow these requests, however, we will be very appreciative of the positive effects if as many families as possible do so.

Additionally, please continue to support the school by reminding your student of the importance of strict adherence to the safety measures in place in school. These include physical distancing, regular handwashing and sanitising, correct mask wearing, and ensuring sufficient ventilation. Given the current high level of transmission of Covid-19 being reported by the HSE, it is highly likely that we will have transmission of the virus in school this term, and therefore it is crucial that we once again redouble our efforts to do all that we can to mitigate against this, to protect all members of our community.

Given the high transmission rates of the omicron variant, it is essential that every member of the school community must strictly adhere to the most up to date public health advice. Understandably, as the situation evolves, so does our public health advice. The link here <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/> will keep you abreast of the current circumstances. Please see overleaf for further details from the HSE regarding the symptoms of Covid-19. Please do not send your student to school if they are showing any symptoms of the virus.

Please be mindful that we anticipate that school personnel resources will be under pressure in the coming weeks. If you need to contact the school office, please do so by email rather than by phone call. Esther can be reached at info@villiers-school.com. Once again, we request that parents do not seek in-person meetings in school, except in cases of extreme emergency. It is inevitable that the virus will have an impact on many members of staff and their families. Please be conscious of this in approaches made to the school. As a precautionary measure, we are postponing all matches, school visits, and external engagements until at least Tuesday 18th of January. In extreme circumstances, please be aware that we may have to request that class groups, form groups or year groups do not come to school. At present, Monday 17th of January is scheduled to be an online Department of Education (DE) staff training day, and students (except boarders) will not be in school on this day. If this changes, we will let you know promptly.

It is expected that the Department will issue more information and guidance for schools later today. When this



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is issued, we will make further decisions as appropriate.

Please remain aware of the high levels of Covid-19 and please help us keep the school as safe as possible. Thank you for your ongoing and deeply appreciated support and cooperation.

Stay safe.

Sincerely,



Jill A Storey
Headmistress

From the Health Service Executive: <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/symptoms/overview/>

Symptoms of COVID-19

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 (coronavirus) are:

- [fever \(high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above\)](#) - including having chills
- dry cough
- fatigue (tiredness)

COVID-19 symptoms can be like symptoms of [cold](#), [flu](#) or [hay fever](#).

Less common symptoms

Less common symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- [loss or change to your sense of smell or taste](#) – this could mean they're completely gone or just different to normal
- nasal congestion (runny or blocked nose)
- [conjunctivitis](#) (also known as red eye or pink eye)
- sore throat
- headache
- muscle or joint pain (aches and pains)
- different types of skin rash
- nausea or vomiting
- diarrhoea
- chills or dizziness

Severe symptoms

Symptoms of severe COVID-19 include:

- [shortness of breath](#) or breathing difficulties
- loss of appetite
- confusion
- pain or pressure in the chest
- [fever \(high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above\)](#)

You may not have all of the symptoms or your symptoms may be mild. Symptoms may vary for different age groups or different variants of the virus.

You can still get infected if you are fully vaccinated. But your symptoms may be mild.

It can take up to 14 days after you are infected for symptoms to show. You can spread COVID-19 during this time.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19

If you have any symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild:

- [self-isolate \(stay in your room\)](#)
- get tested - [find out what type of test you should do](#)