

Newsletter December 2021

COVID-19

Please see attached a letter from the Department of Education to all parents/guardians of primary school children in regard to antigen testing and Covid-19 symptoms in schools. From Monday 29th of November, if you receive a positive PCR COVID-19 test result for your child, please contact me immediately by calling the school number or directly at gortnationalschool@gmail.com. I will then contact the parents of the other children in your child's pod, to give details of how they can order free antigen tests for their children using a Freephone number. I will not share any personal information relating to any other child with parents.

A reminder that the most important way to protect against any onward spread of infection is that **if your child has any symptoms of COVID-19, including a new cough, shortness of breath, high temperature, sore throat, they should self-isolate at home and you should book a COVID-19 PCR test for them. Children who have symptoms should not use antigen tests, they should stay at home and organise a PCR test for Covid-19.**

In line with guidance from the Dept. of Education children from 3rd to 6th Class are required to wear face masks from the 1st of December. Please see emails sent on 30th of November for further details.

Absence Notes

Following any pupil absence from school please inform the school by putting a note in your child's diary of the dates and reason for the absence so that we may record it on our online roll system.

Also, all children returning to school after an absence must have a completed **Return to Educational Facility Parental Declaration Form**. Every pupil has one of these forms in their school bag.

Christmas Annuals

Christmas Annuals are available to purchase from the school. If you would like to purchase a Christmas Annual, please enclose €2 in a sealed envelope with your child(ren)'s name and class by Friday 3rd of December.

Enrolments 2022/2023

Enrolment forms for the academic year 2022/2023 are available from the 1st of December. The form is available on the school website, alternatively you can email gortnationalschool@gmail.com or you can phone 091631627 to request a form.

Food Appeal

The Gort Mens Shed are organising their annual Food Appeal in conjunction with all the local charities in Gort. The school will participate in this appeal. If you would like to donate non-perishable foods, toiletries, baby items, nappies, new gifts etc. please send them to the school before next Wednesday the 8th of December.

School Closures

There will be a half day closure on Friday the 17th of December to facilitate training in the Primary Language Curriculum for the staff. The Tubber Rd Building will close at 11:50am and the Convent Building will close at 12 noon.

Christmas Holidays - School will finish on Wednesday 22nd of December. Children on the Tubber Rd. finish at 11:50am and children in the Convent finish at 12 noon. We will return to school on Thursday the 6th of January 2022.

Road Safety

Please speak to your child about the importance of road safety on their way to and from school. It has been brought to the school's attention by drivers in the area that some children have poor road awareness and we would like everyone to be safe on the way to and from school especially on these darker days. If your child has a hi-vis jacket please encourage them to wear it.