07/01/2022

Dear Parents,

As we start our new term the situation re covid-19 continues to be challenging and uncertain for everyone. We hope all families had a safe and happy Christmas and we wish you a Happy 2022.

We are delighted to be back to school and will continue to do our best every day to both educate our pupils and keep themselves and ourselves safe.

We are following the most up to date HSE and DES advice and with that in mind **we have today installed four Hepa Air Filtration Units- one in each classroom.** While these will not totally remove the need to open windows for ventilation they will assist us in managing the airflow so windows will not need to be open to the same extent as previously and we will also know that the air circulating in each classroom is

being constantly refreshed and cleaned. We consulted with an engineer re the specifications required and he recommended the company we are purchasing the units from. The DES have given us extra Minor Works Grant money to help with the cost and this is covering just over half the cost and we are using approx. half of our normal minor works to fund the other half. Each unit cost €1300 + VAT. While nothing will fully protect us against Covid and flu etc… we hope that these air filters along with CO2 monitors and partially open windows will keep our classrooms aerated.

All our usual Covid protocols will continue to be followed and as always we are very grateful for all your care of your children and for keeping pupils at home that may put others at risk. While none of us like pupils missing time, the bigger picture is to keep everyone safe by being careful and following all advice.

The website will have this letter and the latest HSE Isolation Quick Guide for parents of children from 3-13 years of age on the School news page.

Please also continue to monitor the DES website and news channels as advice and restrictions can change overnight at the moment.

Each teacher will e-mail this letter to their class list today. If you are letting us know about absences related to covid over the next while could you please e-mail using the pulloughns@gmail.com address as I have access to that immediately on my phone or call the school. All other communications can go as usual through class teachers via e-mail or phone. As most pupils brought some books home at Christmas, if they are out for a while please ask your class teacher to e-mail you the work she has set out for that week. Seesaw work will continue on Wednesdays and can be accessed by all pupils whether in school or at home.

Stay safe and mind yourselves,

Marguerite White, Principal.