**Callystown National School**

1st December 2021

Dear Parents,

As you are aware, over the last few days the Department of Education has introduced a number of public health measures to protect our school communities from the spread of the Covid- 19 virus.

It is important that we follow these measures but also to take a little time to ensure that they are successfully introduced. With this in mind I would be grateful if you would take time to read the notices below.

Information with regard to Covid-19 and schools is constantly changing and in order to communicate effectively with our school families we will be updating the Covid-19 section of our website when necessary. [www.callystownnationalschool.ie](http://www.callystownnationalschool.ie)

Working together and with your support we will do our best to protect our school community.

Yours sincerely,

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Ambrose McGinnity - Principal

**Face Masks:**All children from 3rd to 6th class are required to wear masks.

There are a number of exemptions:

* Special Needs pupils who have already been identified in our school.
* Pupils who have a **medical cert** outlining that they are unable to wear a mask due to a breathing difficulty or other relevant medical conditions.

We will take a couple of days to fully implement this measure as we await further guidance from relevant bodies.

**Antigen testing – Close contacts in a School Setting.**

If a child tests positive for Covid-19 then the parents of the children in his/her class pod will be informed. These close “contact children” will continue to come to school but their parents will be provided with a freephone number where they can request free antigen tests.

In the case where there are two or more confirmed cases of Covid-19 in a class, then the parents of the whole class will be contacted.

**Close contacts in a Home setting.**

* If there is a confirmed case in your home, your child is deemed a “close contact” and is required to have a test immediately. The child is required to remain at home for 14 days or 10 days if they have received a second negative PCR test on the 10th day of isolation.
* If a child is going for a PCR test, then his/her siblings must restrict movement and only return to school if the test comes back negative.

**Christmas Tree Lights – Christmas Jumper Day **

**Friday 3rd December**

If pupils have a Christmas jumper or hat, put it on for our annual turning on of the ChristmasTree lights at the school.

**The Parent’s Council has asked that pupils bring in €2 on the day.**