

PANDEMIC RESPONSE

During these 'unsettled' times it has been necessary to take stock of our operational procedures in:

- a) Keeping the school COVID SECURE
- b) Keeping the school a happy and nurturing setting for our children to come and enjoy their learning - indeed, try to protect their mental wellbeing
- c) Plan an exciting and integrated curriculum for the future in a world full of surprises, anxieties and misinformation.

As we all know, there are vaccines available and that is 'the light at the end of the tunnel' - it is truly great news. However, in the meantime, as we wait for the vaccine program to be rolled out across the country we have to:

- 1) remain vigilant
- 2) maintain our high standards in delivering a genuine service as an educational establishment
- 3) Improve our response to lockdowns and isolation periods.

As a community we have been able to minimise the debilitating effects of COVID with only having one class isolating in recent times. We now need to come together as a staff and community to ensure that IF that happens again we shall be better prepared by learning the lessons and insights from this.

Of the things we need to learn from, communication comes out loud and clear! We need you to tell us when things are not quite right at home and we need to develop our ways of understanding your needs during future lockdown and isolation periods.

To this end we are creating a set of 'Grounded Expectations' of what we shall provide as a school during another enforced isolation or lockdown period in partnership with the community.

We shall be answering questions such as:

I don't have a suitable device for my child to access the activities, what can I do?

I require more devices and or Internet access.

My child finishes the work quickly, what can I do next?

My child finds the work too difficult, what can I do?

How long should or must my child work for in the day?

When should they start during the day?

When should my child finish the work and submit it for marking?

My child has been poorly for 14 days and missed a lot of education, what is in place to address this?

As you can see, these are heartfelt and genuine questions that require important responses for moving ahead into the new year.

Our training will address these and many other similar issues so that we reflect on what has happened in the past, learn from it, learn from the experience of other schools, so that we can continue to be prepared for whatever COVID-19 throws at us.

As ever, we are all in this together.