



Loreto Secondary School Clonmel

Coleville Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We wish you all a Happy New Year. During your Christmas Holiday we hope you had the chance to catch up (even if virtually) with friends and family and enjoy some rest and relaxation. We certainly spent some time reflecting on 2020 (a year like no other) and thinking about the work and opportunities that lie ahead in 2021.

Government announces holiday 3-day extension re Covid-19 Restrictions

As you will be aware last Wednesday the government announced that the entire country has been moved to full Level 5 Covid-19 Restrictions with effect from last Thursday 31st December 2020. The DES Press Release Link is provided [here](#) for your attention.

One component of this strategy is the extension of the school Christmas Holidays by three days through to Monday 11th January 2021. At the moment it remains the DES plan that all schools will re-open. Although you may be aware that the Minister for Education is meeting with her ministerial colleagues today so we may have further clarification in the next few days.

The crucial element is that we all, as citizens and as members of the Loreto Clonmel community, use these days to restrict our movements, minimise our social interactions and ensure we are all best placed to return to school when we re-open.

If it continues to be the DES's plan we want all students to be able to return to school next Monday and we want to be able to remain open from that date. For now it is our priority be that we all adhere to the current restrictions. These are the best, proven means of ensuring we can reduce cases nationally and locally and give our own community the strongest support prior to reopening.

Attention 3rd Year Parents/Guardians – information regarding Transition Year 2021-2022

Ms Cullition, TY Coordinator, will host a (rescheduled) talk on Tuesday 12th January at 7pm to give parents/guardians information regarding Transition Year 2021-2022 in Loreto Clonmel. Details of this *Zoom Meeting* will be placed in your daughter's 3rd Year Team and a text message will be sent on Tuesday to remind you of the meeting.

Attention 5th and 6th Year Parents/Guardians – information regarding Loan of Devices during closure

Our 5th and 6th Years were asked to fill in a Microsoft Office Form: *Loan of a Device during School Closure*. Parents/guardians are asked to ensure that their daughter in 5th or 6th Year has filled in the form by tomorrow at 5pm. Students can go to the Year Group Team for information on this.

Attention TY Parents/Guardians – information regarding TY Work Experience

In order to reduce contacts and avoid the spread of COVID-19 into our school community TY Work Experience cannot take place during Level 5 Restrictions. Monday online learning will recommence for

TYs with the first Team Call for TYs at 9:35am next Monday. Please note that those students undertaking the Gym Course will be contacted by Mr Barcoe prior to Monday.

School Office

At present the school office is not open to the general public, although you may contact the school by phone or email. The office email is reception@loretoclonmel.ie and the school phone number is (052) 6121402. We remind you that the school office will refer your query to the relevant person.

Please be mindful of the time you are ringing or emailing. Our office hours during term time are as follows:

Monday to Thursday: 8:45 am to 12:50am and 1:50pm to 5pm
Friday only: 8:45 am to 12:50am and 1:50pm to 4:30pm

Families who travelled internationally

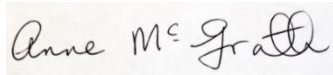
The Department of Education has asked the school to remind you that anyone who travels internationally must restrict their movements for 14 days on arrival into Ireland. On (or prior to) our return to school please let us know if this applies to your daughter(s).

Sick Students

On our return to school **please keep students who are unwell at home**. There was a move towards “go to school and see how you are feeling” at the end of last term, which we would ask parents/guardians not to do that this term.

Please see our Prayer for January below for all in the extended Loreto Community.

Yours faithfully,



Anne Mc Grath,
Principal



Sarah Rice,
Deputy Principal



Our prayer for all in the extended Loreto Community:

God of our yesterdays, our todays and our tomorrows,
thank you for the year behind us and for the year ahead.

Help us in this New Year to worry less and to laugh more.

Thank you for another new year and for new chances every day.

We place in your loving care all who are affected by Coronavirus.

We pray for peace, hope, respect and justice and that we might share them with others.

Amen.

HSE Advice

Further information on COVID-19 is available at [HPSC](https://www.hpsc.ie); and [GOV.ie](https://www.gov.ie) or phone **Public Health South East** at 056 7784142 or **HSE Live** at 1850 24 1850



	Condition	Person	Others
1	Laboratory confirmed COVID-19	Self-isolate for 10 days from onset of symptoms with last 5 days without a fever (If asymptomatic, 10 days from date of test)	Close contacts restrict movements for 14 days (after last contact with case*)
2	COVID-19 symptoms awaiting test or test result (this includes patients with samples reported as indeterminate/invalid until such time as repeat test is available or it has been determined that COVID-19 has been excluded on other grounds)	Self-isolate, including from household members if possible, pending test result	Members of the household restrict movements pending test results/exclusion of COVID-19 diagnosis
3	COVID-19 symptoms, test result "Not Detected"	Follow medical advice. Restrict movement until 48 hours symptom free.	Restrictions no longer needed
4	Some medical symptoms that may be COVID-19 related and awaiting medical assessment that day to determine if testing is required	Self-isolate pending assessment	No restrictions until medical assessment determines if COVID-19 testing is required. If yes, restrict movements pending results.
5	No symptoms. Close contact of confirmed case	Restrict movements for 14 days, testing as advised by public health (Day 0 and Day 7)	No restrictions
6	Runny nose or other minor symptoms and 'off-form', no fever equal to or greater than 38.0°C, no cough, no shortness of breath. AND Close contact of proven case OR travel from region not on Green Region** list	Assessment +/- testing advised. Self-isolate pending assessment of symptoms. N.B. Movements should be restricted for 14 days due to close contact/travel to non-Green Region**. In certain instances, the duration of restricted movement can be reduced. See www.gov.ie for more detail.	Members of the household restrict movements pending assessment
7	Runny nose or other minor symptoms and 'off-form', no fever equal to or greater than 38.0°C, no cough, no shortness of breath AND ill household contact with COVID-19 symptoms	Assessment +/- testing advised of child and symptomatic household contact, as the risk of COVID-19 within a household increases with each additional ill household contact. Self-isolate pending assessment of symptoms	Members of the household restrict movements pending assessment
8	Runny nose or other minor symptoms and 'off-form', no fever equal to or greater than 38.0°C, no cough, no shortness of breath, and NO ill contacts or history of travel	Keep home from school or childcare for a period of 48 hours. Monitor child's condition for deterioration or new symptoms. If no deterioration or new symptoms AND no need for paracetamol or ibuprofen, then child can return to school or childcare.	No restrictions
9	Runny nose, not unwell, good form, good energy and normal appetite, no fever, not requiring paracetamol, ibuprofen or any other antipyretic	Can go to school	No restrictions
10	Travel from country not on Green Region list**	Restrict movements for 14 days, In certain instances, the duration of restricted movement can be reduced. See www.gov.ie for more detail. If symptoms develop, self-isolate and test for COVID-19 (see point 6)	No restrictions unless the person who has returned develops symptoms
11	COVID-19 symptoms, fits criteria for testing, but not tested for any reason, or declines testing	Treat as confirmed case. Self-isolate for 10 days with last 5 days without a fever	Close contacts restrict movements for 14 days (after last contact with case)