

Coláiste Pobail na Mainistreach
Bóthar na Mainistreach An Port Mór Portláirge X91 PC91
Príomhoide: Michelle Ní Sheafraidh
Leas-Phríomhoide: Colm de Ris
Leas-Phríomhoide: Helen Ní Chonchubhair
Leas-Phríomhoide: Laura Ní Ghiolla Phódraig

Abbey Community College
Abbey Road Ferrybank Waterford X91 PC91
Principal: Michelle Jefford
Deputy Principal: Colm Rice
Deputy Principal: Helen O'Connor
Deputy Principal: Laura Fitzpatrick



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www.abbeycommunitycollege.com

21st Dec., 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As the end of term approaches, we are writing to remind you that school finishes for all on **Tuesday, 22nd Dec. at 12pm.**

Reports:

Your child's Christmas report will be available online, on their VSware profile from **Tuesday, 22nd December.** We would encourage you to discuss this report with your son/daughter in terms of their overall progress and engagement in school life.

Some general advice in relation to social media usage over the Christmas period:

With so many students receiving some form of technology as gifts for the holidays, it is a great time to check in with your children about the use, dangers, and responsibilities that come with technology and social media. Many of the issues that happen in schools across the country are tracked back to issues that started on sites like Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram etc.

Please be sure that you know what social media sites your children are on, check their phone or devices on a regular basis, and have conversations with your children about what they are doing and who they are talking to on their devices. We would like to make you aware of an excellent, up to date website which offers a wide range of advice and information on a variety of internet safety topics called www.webwise.ie

Covid-19: (Advice from the HSE)

Cases of Covid-19 have increased steeply in the last week which means that the risk of getting Covid-19 is higher now than at any other time in recent months. Please remember that Covid-19 spreads from person to person when we are in close contact with each other and it is possible for someone to be infectious while feeling completely well.

To reduce the risk to you and your community over the holidays keep the number of people you meet to a minimum. When meeting people from outside your household, keep 2 metres apart and wear face coverings. If you develop symptoms, self-isolate immediately and phone your GP for medical advice – for more information please go to www.hse.ie.

In Abbey Community College, through the enormous effort and cooperation of all parties involved, we have managed particularly well in relation to managing the emergence of Covid-19 in our school community.

The first half of the school year has been safely completed. However, we can take nothing for granted and we must ensure that we all keep our guard up in our collective effort to keep Covid-19 out of our school. The imminent arrival of various vaccines, when combined with existing preventative measures, should mean that a high level of normality will hopefully return to our lives in the course of 2021. Until then, maximum vigilance is essential.

No one wants to see a return to enforced school closures in 2021. Our individual and collective behaviour will determine whether this is necessary or not. However, all students must be ready for this possibility, should it materialise. **We would advise that all books, notes and copies are taken home in case of any changes to Teaching & Learning in 2021.**

If we do need to **contact you over the Christmas season** in relation to any changes that may lie ahead for schools in 2021, it will be through our method of official communication between home and school, **our official text messaging system.**

2020 has been a year like no other, our lives as we knew them changed instantly in March 2020 with the emergence of Covid-19 into the world. Since then, we have had to rethink, reinvent and reimagine the ways in which we have continued

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on with our lives at home and in school. We wish to acknowledge how deeply thankful we are, for the collective talent and energy of our students and staff (teaching and non-teaching) and for the enduring and essential contributions of our parents to our school community.

Finally, as we approach this Christmas season and move towards 2021, we would like to wish you all a very safe, happy and peaceful Christmas and we look forward to seeing all of our students on **Wednesday Jan. 6th, 2021** when the school re-opens.

'Nollaig Beannaithe agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh'

Ms. Michelle Jefford

Principal

Laura Fitzpatrick

Deputy Principal

Helen O'Connor

Deputy Principal

Colm Rice

Deputy Principal