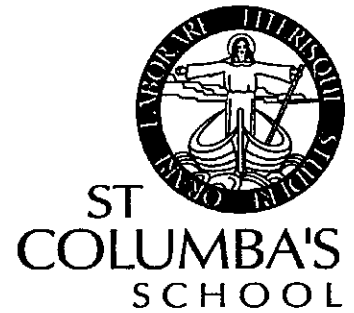


12th November 2009



Dear Parent

Pandemic Swine Flu

At different points during the course of this term, we have had significant numbers of pupils absent with flu-like symptoms. While few have been swabbed, it is likely that many have actually had swine flu. The mid-term break helped to halt the spread of the virus. Now that the second half term is well underway, absences on account of flu-like symptoms are on the increase once again. I, therefore, wish to remind you to ensure that any child with flu-like symptoms or who is coughing or sneezing should not be sent to School. I also ask you to reinforce to your children the importance of using regularly the hand gel provided in School particularly prior to eating.

Senior School staff are currently in the process of developing learning material which can be stored in the School's Learning Resources folder which can be accessed by pupils from home. The focus is on pupils in Senior IV, V and VI who are preparing to take national examinations and our aim is to provide some support for pupils who have to work from home for whatever reason. Clearly, the most effective way for pupils to learn is to be in class with their teacher but if this is not possible, remote learning will allow pupils to continue their studies albeit in a limited way. Pupils should not use these learning resources unless asked to do so.

All pupils have been shown how to access the School Learning Resources folder remotely. This can be done by visiting <https://folders.st-columbas.org> and clicking on 'Learning Resources'. Access to this site is protected by password. I would be grateful if parents of SIV, V and VI pupils could check that access to this folder can be achieved and let Mrs Bruce know of any problems in this regard.

Yours sincerely
D G Girdwood
Rector

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