August 16th 2020

Dear Parents,

Just a few more updates re return to school plans. The Department of Education and Skills have published the latest version of the Schools Covid -19 response plan. This is the framework we are using for finalising our schools own Covid-19 response plan for a safe and sustainable return to school. We will put the DES plan on the website this week and encourage all parents to read it through fully.

We are working on our own school plan and are finalising classroom setouts as per DES guidelines in the space we have available. We have also ordered appropriate Extra PPE such as hands free soap dispensers for handwashing/hand sanitzers/foot-pedal operated classroom bins etc.. for the return

As parents you will all play a very important part in the return to school being safe and sustainable. You will be best placed to monitor your child for any illness presenting and follow best advice around keeping them safe whether that means coming to school or taking some time off to be sure they are well for their safety and that of all the school community.

You will have seen on the news and social media that there is a conversation ongoing around school uniforms and the advice to have a change every day. We are advising you to pop each day’s uniform into the wash as soon as possible after school each day for your family’s safety to fully ensure anything touched in school/exiting/travelling home is easily removed from your house. We know this is extra work on parents alongside other concerns but feel it is the best advice going. As a school we are advising parents to therefore buy extra uniform jumpers/sweaters/plain tracksuit/trouser bottoms and t-shirts. There is no issue around crests for all jumpers/sweatshirts in the current year but it is better for all if the uniform is worn and washed and replaced each day for the safety of all. There are lots of good offers for uniforms at a good price available at the moment..

Staff are meeting later this week to finalise all arrangements re entry/exit and breaks etc.. We will outline all plans when they are finalised and ratified by the Board of Management early the week starting August 24th and when we have all DES updates included for safety.

For now we have two staff updates for you: Ms Gallagher has procured a permanent job and Ms Clancy’s maternity leave will now be covered by Ms Jane Ormonde. We thank Ms Gallagher for all her work over the last two years with us and wish her every success in her new post. Ms Brady’s maternity leave will be covered by Ms Meabh Fogarty and we are happy to welcome both ladies to the staff for the new year.

We will issue more advice relating to schoolbags and luchboxes nearer the return. We will also outline all protocols re visitors to school etc…

All staff will have online training organised by the DES before we return.

We will keep updates coming via the website and will circulate fuller plans nearer the return.

Stay safe,

Marguerite White and staff.