Dear Parents

We would like to give you information on planning for the restart of the new school year 2020/2021. We want to have school open for all as quickly and safely as possible.

Many documents have been issued from DE with regard to school reopening - these run to hundreds of pages! In keeping with all the guidance, at present it is our hope that we can fulfil the plans that we have made.

Please note however that if regulations change our arrangements will be subject to change.

In our planning, priorities are twofold,

* Safety of children and staff
* To have all classes back in school as early as possible.

With regard to safety, statutory safety guidance from our Education Authority will be strictly adhered to.

In Derrylatinee we are very fortunate to have spacious classrooms and good space outside.

Large items of furniture have been removed from classrooms to maximize space for the children. Separating desks and placing chairs apart allows us to seat 26 children in the classroom. We can and will also ensure adult spacing.

Due to large numbers in composite classes and with an intake of 17 P1s at this time of COVID19 we have managed to reorganize the class structure. This is very positive as the result is smaller numbers in each classroom with the shared room being used as a classroom. Below is the new class structures for September -

* P1      Mrs McNeice/Mrs Conlan
* P2/P3 Mrs Goodwin
* P4/P5 Mr Canavan
* P6/P7 Mrs O’Rourke/Mrs McKenna

**School starting time and drop off arrangements.**

Unfortunately, we will not be able to have the Breakfast Club or Homework Club facility at the minute, this may change.

School will begin at 9.15am for all pupils and finish at 2pm for P1/P2 and 3.10pm for P4/P7. Communication from EA on July 28th stated that “catering and transport will be operational in some capacity from August 24th”. Further advice on what this capacity is and what restrictions there might be will be posted on the website as and when they become available.

It is important that parents carefully and safely drop the children off at school, practicing the current social distancing rules. Please show good example to all of the children. Children may be

left off from 8.45am, please do not leave children before that time as supervision will only begin at 8.45am. Parents of children in classes P4 - P7 should leave their children at the gate and the children must walk up inside the walkway in single file. Parents of children in Foundation Stage P1/P2 may come with the child to the gate inside (beside the old School) and leave the child there.

The children should enter school as they usually did - P1- P4 side door, P5-P7 back door, sanitizing stations will be there on entry. Children will come into their classroom and that will be their bubble.

In each classroom we will have routines and measures in place to promote good hygiene and safety.

**Cleaning arrangements**

We have planned and will have cleaning /hygiene procedures in place throughout the full school day. Cleaning and cleaning materials will be in keeping with EA guidance.

**Break time and Lunch time**

Our playground and our staffing will allow two separate break times and lunchtimes, the first for Foundation/KStage1 and the second for KStage2.

All children should bring a snack for break as unfortunately it is not possible for a snack to be provided by the school at this time. At present plans are that school meals will be served and children will eat dinner/lunch in their classroom.

**Using toilets**

Children will use the toilet next to their classroom, only one child will be in the toilet area at a time.

**Children’s school bags and resources.**

For the immediate future children should not need a school bag (except for lunch bag) as no materials from home should be brought to school and no school resources will be allowed home. Any developments here will be communicated to you.

Children will have core resources on their desk to be used only by themselves.

All teachers have been trained in the use of Seesaw online teaching and learning and will be utilising this resource alongside other activities. Details on how to access this and other important resources will be provided closer to the time school re-starts.

**Children’s uniform**

Children should wear full school uniform and it should be laundered daily.

**Children who are unwell or become unwell in School.**

It is of paramount importance that if your child has been unwell the night before or in the morning that they remain at home. Please **do not send a child who is unwell** in any way to school. We ask that parents take their child/children’s’ temperature in the morning before leaving for school.  All Staff will have their temperature taken on entry to school.

If a child presents unwell during the school day we will contact parents immediately and arrangements must be made to take the child home. Please bear this in mind and have arrangements in place for child’s collection in this situation.

Everyone has their part to play in keeping each other safe and further communication will be provided about the steps to take where a child or adult has symptoms, or has been in contact with someone who has symptoms, consistent with Coronavirus. This will be based on the most up to date guidance available at the time.

**Arrangements for Return**

Monday August17th - Friday August 21st Staff

Monday August 24th - Friday August 28th P7 9.10am - 2.00pm

Wednesday August 26th - Thursday August 27th P1 9.10am - 12 noon

Tuesday September 1st - All children (P1-P7) return - class begins at 9.10

  P1 - P2 (P3 on Fridays) home time 2.00pm

                                P3 - P7                             home time 3.10pm

Please note that we may have to react to statutory advice if there are any changes in the COVID 19 situation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us. Your questions and opinions are very welcome.

We hope that everyone stays safe and well and we look forward to our school community reuniting.

Mrs Mary McNeice

Principal

Mr Phelim Marrion

Chairman of Board of Governors