



8th September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to **welcome** back all members of our school community. It has been a long six months since March 12th when our buildings were last open and we are really delighted to have all the children back with us. We look forward to a very busy and enjoyable year ahead. We particularly wish to welcome all our new third class pupils who started with us this year and it is great to see them settling in so well. We welcome back Ms McCaul who returns to our school this year and also welcome a new member of staff, Ms. Lennon.

New Covid Systems – I would like to say a huge thanks to all parents for your support and co-operation of the new systems we have put in place to protect our school community from the Covid virus. The children seem to have adapted very well to our new systems such as sitting in pods and playing only in their class bubble and have shown great resilience. The key message remains the same

- If your child displays any of the symptoms they must stay at home

- Please practice social distancing at all times on campus
- Practice good cough hygiene and remind the children to 'catch it, bin it, kill it'
- Wash your hands

Bicycles and Scooters – It is great to see so many children cycling and scooting to school. We would ask all members of the school community to dismount from their bicycles and scooters when on school grounds as the one way systems we have put in place to help social distancing have narrowed our access points.

Personal Sanitizer – There are sanitizer points at every access door and in every class. We have purchased all our sanitizer and PPE through the government system. Some families have enquired whether their child can bring their own personal sanitizer. This is absolutely fine.

Homework – Parents will have noticed that we are giving no written homework at present. This is a deliberate decision to ease everyone back to school. Written homework will commence next week. In the meantime we are focusing on revision of some of last year's topics plus a lot of lessons on wellbeing and resilience from the SPHE curriculum.

SNA Appeal – We were very disappointed over the summer to receive word from the Department that we would receive no extra SNA hours this year despite the fact that we have several children who have joined us from the Junior School who had SNA support there. This has a direct impact on our most vulnerable children as we try to spread

