



## St. Anne's School

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Principal: Pauline Dempsey

Roll No. 19277B

7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/guardians

You have no doubt heard the news regarding the opening of special schools on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. This is an unprecedented move in these challenging times and one that has caused much debate amongst schools nationally as the decision was reached without any dialogue, discussion or representation from those of us who are charged with your child's safety. It is, as a result, very much outside of local control.

However St Anne's will be opening our doors on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January and we will be delighted to welcome all our children back should parents/guardians decide it is safe to send them in. I would like to reassure you that all processes, procedures and recommendations as outlined in our Covid Plan (Plan for Continuing Management of the Prevention of Covid) and which is available on our website, will continue to be implemented to the highest level. This was and had been effective in the period leading up to Christmas. It is vital to note however, that we cannot guarantee that it will provide additional safety for your child within the current strain of Covid as we have not received any further guidelines nor recommendations from the Department of Education on what additional precautions we need to consider at this time.

We had previously experienced enormous pressure in trying to access staff to safely cover classes during periods of absence. This is going to continue and all indicators suggest it can only get worse within the current scenario. Our commitment remains the same and that is to do our best to keep everyone safe and the school open as far as is reasonably practicable.

As in previous correspondence I would like to remind you of the following:

- Please keep your child at home if they appear unwell. As parents/guardians you know your child very well, we ask that you maintain a "heightened awareness of signs, symptoms or changes in baseline which might suggest illness/COVID-19 infection and, where symptoms are present, children ***should not*** attend the school." (Plan for Continuing Management of the Prevention of Covid P.10)
- Please be available to collect your child from school when we call you to tell you they are ill. Delay in responding to our call can compromise the health and wellbeing of other children and staff.
- In the event of staff absences, our protocol relating to unusual patterns of absences within staff will be employed. It is very likely that your child's class will be closed at some stage and classes may remain closed until such time as a suitable replacement can be found to cover the class safely.

It is important for everyone's safety that we continue to work together on this as we have in the past and now, more so than ever, as we struggle to negotiate this new threat to our community.

The above may change should the Department of Education decide, on review, to reverse their decision and it is our hope that they will keep us informed at all stages of their plans.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries regarding this or any other matter relating to our school at this time.

Yours sincerely  
  
Pauline Dempsey  
Principal