

**St. Anne's School**

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Principal: Pauline Dempsey

Roll No. 19277B

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26<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents/guardians

I am writing to thank you for your incredible support and understanding as the school navigated its way through the first half of this term. We have arrived here safely and very happy in the knowledge that all the procedures, practices and extra work that the staff have put in place have ensured our wellbeing.

When we opened our school doors on the 1<sup>st</sup> September it was with some trepidation but also immense excitement at seeing our children and especially the new enrolments. They did not disappoint us. The smiles, laughter, new uniforms, school bags (all organised according to our requests and guidelines, for which we give thanks), and their stories kept us entranced as we prepared to settle into the new term.

Our trepidation was around the tremendous responsibility we all felt in ensuring we kept our children safe. We had planned, trained, organised, restructured, regrouped and got used to the new language of pods and bubbles. Only time would tell if it was working. Happily as we look back and reassess our policies and procedures for the next half of this term we appear to be on the right track.

I would particularly like to thank you for your tolerance and understanding when you received the text or phone call informing you that your child's class would be closed. This has unfortunately occurred and is the last action we ever want to take. We are heading into the time of year when the usual illnesses also occur and our main problem can be accessing substitutes. We have been very fortunate in that we have had access to a bank of substitutes that we have called on, unfortunately other schools avail of this also which has created times when no one was available.

Some of the absences have been as a result of contact tracing where individuals in school have had to self-isolate as a result of being considered a close contact in situations outside of the school. This situation was managed safely and efficiently.

My aim is to keep the school open and functioning for the benefit of the children and to ensure a continuance of their education. If this means closing one class or asking one or two

children to remain a home I hope you will understand and continue to support us. I would like to reassure you that this is not the first port of call and a lot of effort is made to secure staff before this decision is reached.

I would like to remind all parents/guardians that all our protocols remain the same regarding Covid-19 and will continue to be that way until further notice. We ask that you continue to support your child by preparing him/her for school within our guidelines as you have to date. (See our updated Covid Plan on our Website - Plan for Continuing Management of the Prevention of Covid, published 2<sup>nd</sup> October)

Some gentle reminders for you all:

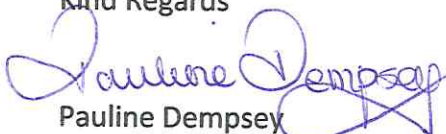
- Please ensure you adhere to social distancing/respiratory hygiene/sanitising rules if you are dropping your child to school
- Please wait in your car until an SNA approaches you to take your child to class. If this is during the day please phone the office to advise that you have arrived. There may be times that you get no answer, we apologise for this but ask that, should this happen, you approach the main door of the school and wait for assistance.

And, most importantly:

- 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)

Thank you again for your input and support of our school. We look forward to the next half of this term and being able to work together as much as possible.

Kind Regards

  
Pauline Dempsey  
Principal