



St. Anne's School

Ballymany Cross

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Principal: Pauline Dempsey

Roll No. 19277B

8th January 2021

Dear Parents/guardians

As you probably know the Minister for Education has reversed the decision to open special schools on Monday and as a result St. Anne's will remain closed for a period of time. There are many voices involved in this discussion and all are clearly articulating what they consider to be essential requirements that must be in place before special schools open.

Whilst there is no debate around this, our children deserve the same respect and care that any other school going child has, it is difficult to imagine when all these requirements will be in place. It is important to remember that whereas other school going children can vocalise their discomfort at returning to school and are aware of any risks associated with this, our children cannot and, as their advocates, we take our job seriously and welcome the concerns that have been outlined. It is important that they are addressed and that the Department of Education assist us in making our school and the transport system safe.

In the meantime we are committed to assisting our children to continue with their education remotely. We are very aware that this does not suit every child's family and for many reasons but we are here to do our best for you.

Over the next few days, teachers will be contacting you to establish how they can support your child's learning in a way that is manageable for you. We would ask that you provide the school with an email address, if you haven't already, and that, if your phone number has changed, you notify the office at office@stannesthecarragh.ie. This way groups can be set up for teachers to enable them to contact you. You will receive an email or phone call from your child's teacher and together you will formulate a plan for your child. How the plan is rolled out will also be agreed. If you keep in regular contact with your child's teacher then the plan can be reviewed and adapted as required.

Maria, our secretary, will be checking emails and will be taking telephone calls. Please be patient if there is a delay in responding to either, she will get back to you.

Please remember, we are only one part of the team around your child, it is important to maintain contact with any clinical supports you may have and get assistance there. If we all work together we will come through this safely and our children will thrive.

Kind Regards

Pauline Dempsey

Principal