

St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

10 Whites Road, Cabragh, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, BT70 3AN

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Acting Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn



10th July 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope that you and your family are keeping well and that you are all beginning to enjoy the well-earned summer holidays. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support over the school year and especially in the last few months. This is not the year that we had envisaged when we began school in September nor is it the ideal way we wished to end our school year.

I recognise that many of you are anxious for details about how your child/children may return to school in September. We have already begun making preparations to ensure that when we reopen we will be ready to restart in a safe and effective manner in St. Mary's. The health and well-being of our pupils, staff and wider school community will be our primary concern.

As the Covid-19 situation changes by the day, so will arrangements for a return to St. Mary's in the new school year. In line with the current guidance, we are hopeful for a whole school return. However, should the wider public health situation deteriorate and there is a re-introduction of two metre social distancing, we will, unfortunately, be unable to accommodate our usual large class sizes.

In this situation, we would implement the '**Blended Learning Approach**'. This will consist of each class being divided into two groups with each group attending the same two full days in school each week (either all day Monday and Tuesday or all day Thursday and Friday) and accessing three days of learning from home; hence **blending** school and home. **Should this scenario be required, I will inform parents of the days their children will be in school.** Once groups are established there will be no opportunity to move between them. All members of the same immediate family will be placed in the same session, so that a family attends school on the same days of the week. School dinners will hopefully be available, but how this is to be organised is as yet to be decided. We await further guidance from the relevant bodies.

Following the guidance issued from the Department of Education, **Primary 7 children only will return to school on Monday 24th August 2020.** St. Mary's will be able to accommodate the return of **all P7** pupils in either scenario due to the smaller class size. The school will be closed for the Bank Holiday on Monday 31st August. **Primary 1 through to Primary 6 will return on Tuesday 1st September 2020.**

There will be staggered arrival/collection times to avoid too many people gathering at the school gates and to promote social distancing; hence helping to control the COVID-19 virus. These details will be communicated to you in August.

We intend to hold an induction morning for **new P1 Pupils, on Tuesday 25th August 9.30am -11.00am** to give the children an opportunity to meet their new teacher, see their new classroom and to help with settling in. There will be a phased intake of children, beginning Tuesday 1st September. Eight children will be admitted each day (1st-4th September). I will be in contact with parents of pupils beginning P1 over the summer, to clarify the exact day their child should attend. The full class will return together on Monday 7th September.

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The return to school arrangements may change over the summer as further guidance is issued by the Department of Education. I will continue to keep the whole school community updated via the school texting service and school website. I will be in touch with you again week beginning 17th August to provide more detailed guidance for you and your child.

It is therefore very important that you keep the school updated with accurate mobile phone numbers and email addresses.

I sincerely hope that we will all be able to return to school safely in September. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding and support throughout what has been such a difficult time for us all. I look forward to welcoming the children back to St. Mary's in the new academic year. I hope that you all have a happy and relaxing summer break.

Take care and God Bless,

Louise Quinn