



6th August, 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian,

RE: Re-opening of St. Mary's N.S.

I hope you and your families are keeping well.

As you are aware, our school has now been closed since 12th March due to the COVID-19 situation. We are now aiming to re-open our school safely, on **Thursday, 27th August**, in line with current guidance and recommendations.

Re-opening the school safely will require the co-operation of all members of our School Community – Board of Management, School Leadership, Staff, Parents and Pupils. We will all be called on to play our part in ensuring that the re-opening of the school is done in a safe manner which prevents the spread of the virus and allows the vital work of Teaching and Learning to proceed with as little disruption as possible.

We have been working on our plan for the safe reopening of the school for some weeks now and have published the DES COVID-19 Response Plan for the safe and sustainable reopening of Primary and Special Schools on our school website. The Response Plan gives details of

- Physical preparation, signage, hand sanitiser stations
- Advice, procedures and training for the safe return to working in the school for all school staff and pupils
- General and specific advice on how all pupils, staff, parents and visitors will prevent the spread of the virus

We have also published our COVID-19 Policy Statement on the school website.

Over the coming weeks, you will be provided with the information required by you to play your part in safely re-opening the school. All parents/guardians are asked to read carefully the weekly updates which will be sent via Aladdin Connect and will also be available to view on the school website.

We are really looking forward to welcoming our current pupils back to school, and our new pupils to St. Mary's. We will be doing all that we can to ensure that the return to school is a safe and enjoyable experience for the children.

Le meas,

Victor O'Flynn
Cathaoirleach, An Bhóird Bainistíochta

Fiona O'Callaghan
Príomhoide

The following websites provide further information on COVID-19 and on government advice and recommendations regarding the re-opening of schools: -

- <https://www.education.ie/en/covid-19/>
- <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>
- <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/a128d-back-to-school/?referrer=http://www.gov.ie/backtoschool/>