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## Letter to Parents

26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

This term has been an exceptional one and I want to thank you for all the support you have given both to your children and the staff. We have received many positive responses during this unprecedented time and I thank you for these. Moving forward, I am mindful that during the term ahead we will continue to face many challenges. I hope you will trust our honesty and integrity to do what is best for your children and the whole Toreagh community. As we face these challenges, I intend to keep you updated via the website and will send out a text message too.

At the moment, advice is changing on a daily basis. The guidance from the Education Minister has now been received and we look forward to the new term with renewed hope. Please bear with us, as we continue our journey towards re-opening.

As it stands the children will be following a phased return starting with P7 on the week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> August. The other classes will then follow on a phased basis the week after. No matter what happens over the summer, we will use these 2 weeks to allow the children to get used to school again and to make them familiar with the specific safety measures we have put in place. This will also allow you, the parents, to get used to the staggered drop off and pick up measures, which must be put in place. Although school will not be the same, we will endeavour to make it as safe and "normal" as we possibly can.

Our numbers grow every year and in September we will have 111 children enrolled. For many years the Governors and I have been pushing for extra classrooms, storage space and canteen facilities and we will continue to do this. I have recently contacted the EANI, DENI, the Education Minister Peter Weir and local MLAs regarding this issue.

## Getting Ready for the new term

The following are a few things that you can do, to help your child get ready:

- Drive or walk past the school and talk positively to your child about coming back.
- Continue to teach your child how to wash their hands and use hand gel correctly, and what to do if they cough or sneeze (Catch it, bin it, kill it).
- Please do **not** buy any schoolbags, pencil cases, lunchboxes, PE shoes etc. at this time. Any stationery needed by the children will be supplied by the school.

- School uniform remains in place for September and the guidance recommends this is washed daily. (You may be necessary to buy a little extra)
- Ensure your child can dress themselves with regard to coats, shoes etc. Please buy non slip shoes without laces, if your child cannot tie.
- Ensure your child knows that school will have new rules that **MUST** be adhered to, so that everyone is safe.

I will be in touch again as soon as I have a more detailed plan for re-opening. Further guidance is due to be issued by DENI at the end of July. Once again may I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your understanding as we try to navigate our way through these uncertain and ever-changing circumstances.

Until then take care and stay safe,

Lyn Morrow

Principal