

20<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

**Clarification re: next week.**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Given a few questions that have been directed my way I feel it is necessary to provide some clarification around the plans for next week and beyond.

As the government begins to soften our restrictions we must still be mindful that Covid-19 is not gone, therefore continued care and consideration must be taken. This is especially a concern as we slowly return to normal at schools. Therefore, the plans we have in place are designed to minimise the number of adults on-site to reduce the likelihood of congregations around classroom areas and on the grounds. Students who usually walk to and from school without an adult can continue this practice. If your child is in an older class and usually waits in the grounds from 8.30 am, this practice can still continue. If your child needs to be in the school grounds prior to that please arrange to contact our before school care provider - Extend.

*From 26<sup>th</sup> May, Preps to 2 will commence on-site. Years 3 to 6 will commence on 9<sup>th</sup> June.*

**Drop off:** If your child is confident enough to walk into their classrooms themselves then please drop them outside of the school grounds and do not enter the grounds yourself. For those who feel they need to drop their child at the classroom door, be aware that teachers will only be ready to accept students inside from 8.45 am. Children can be brought to classroom doors any time between 8.45 am and 9.15 am each day. Please say goodbye to your child before doorways. Parents **MUST** not enter the classrooms for any reason nor remain at the entrance, as this will impact on social distancing requirements for adults.

**Pick up:** To minimise the number of people on the school ground, we have provided two options. Those who believe they need to collect their children directly, with surnames starting A to L may collect from classroom at 3.00 to 3.15 pm. Those whose surnames start with M to Z can collect from 3.15 to 3.30 pm. All students remaining will then be dismissed at 3.30 pm and can proceed home as usual or, if you feel it is essential that they meet you in the ground, arrange a meeting point. I respectfully ask you to adhere to social distancing.

The Department of Education are very clear that this is a staged return. For year 3 to 6 students until 9<sup>th</sup> June, remote 'weekly outlines' will still be emailed to families. Only children in years 3 to 6 of essential workers, and where there are no other care possibilities, can be on-site being supervised.

**Please send the on-site application form to me today.**

We are also aware that while some children can't wait to get back to school, many are anxious. Many questions may be running around in their head about friendships, their teacher or their learning as well as stress related to the impact of Covid-19. The staff are very aware of this and we will be promoting wellbeing activities, and routine and structure to help them ease back. However, if you are aware of any obvious worries that your child/ren have expressed or any concerns you may have, please advise the teacher via email prior to them starting. Teacher will not be able to answer emails during class time.

I hope this has clarified any misunderstandings. Do not hesitate to call me if you have any query.

*Kind Regards,*

*Julie Gleeson*