



St. Colman's Primary School
and
All Saints' Nursery Unit
(Annaclone)

Banbridge,
Co. Down
BT32 5LS

Progress Through Partnership, Leading To Excellence



Principal: Mr K O'Neill
BEd. PQH(NI)

Tel: 028 40671363 Email: info@stcolmans.annaclone.ni.sch.uk
Twitter: @stcolmansps Web: www.stcolmansandallsaints.co.uk

16th June 2020

Dear parents/carers,

The Minister of Education, Peter Weir, has informed principals that he has established an Education Restart Programme to address the phased reopening of schools. The Restart Programme Board will consider the following:

- Physical protection of staff and pupils
- Well-being of staff and pupils
- Vulnerable learners and SEN services
- Standards and learning
- A new normal – new school day arrangements

As we receive guidance and direction from the Department of Education, we will be in a position to finalise our arrangements for a phased reopening. I recognise that parents are anxious for details about how the pupils will return in the new term and that is why we want to ensure that the information we give you is as accurate as possible and in line with DE guidance.

I envisage that this will incorporate a new blended approach to education where our pupils will be educated through a mixture of remote learning at home and face-to-face teaching at school. Therefore, not all pupils will return to school as normal at the beginning of the next academic year and may only attend school on a timetabled basis.

When we receive the guidance from the Minister we will see how we can make it work best in our local context and in ways that will at all times proceed parallel to Public Health Agency guidance of the Covid-19 response and the Northern Ireland Executive's "*Coronavirus Executive Approach to Decision-Making*" paper. A key point to remember is the school is not opening today, nor indeed tomorrow and that with a fluid



situation the playing field may look different again in ten weeks' time. We have been told that the guidance (when it does come) can and will be reviewed throughout the course of the summer weeks.

I conclude by asking you and your families to pray for us, the staff, at this time as we try to work out our plan for a safe return for all after the summer. School is going to be quite different in the new term and every decision that we make has implications for so much of our existing practice. Our priority throughout will be to get children back into school for as long as we can each week, whilst ensuring that we are implementing all PHA and DE guidelines.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

K O'Neill

Principal

