



St Patrick's National School

Coinnigh an solas ar lasadh

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Roll No: 18040L

Acting Principal:

Lorna Gerrard

23rd October 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well and that everyone can safely navigate through the increased restrictions over the coming weeks. We are delighted that under Level 5 of the Government's *Plan for Living with Covid-19* that schools will remain open.

We have had a smooth half term back at school and everyone has played their part in ensuring that the school is as safe as it possibly can be for our pupils and staff. I want to take this opportunity to thank the staff for all of their hard work in the school over the past eight weeks. The teachers and SNAs have gone above and beyond to facilitate and continue with teaching and learning and to provide a happy and comfortable environment for our pupils. My sincere gratitude to Davy, our caretaker and cleaner who played a massive part in preparing the school for reopening, and now on a daily basis ensures that the school is cleaned regularly throughout the day. This, along with our additional cleaner in the evenings means that our school is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, thus reducing the risk of the spread of the virus. I want to thank our secretary Sharon, who is working extremely hard in the office all the while with a warm welcome in these challenging circumstances. Many thanks to the Board of Management for their support and dedication to the school throughout.

I want to thank you, the parents, for your support and cooperation with all of the new logistical arrangements and protocols since our school reopened. Arrivals and dismissals are running very smoothly and children are coming in and out of school safely. A huge thank you to the Parents Association for decorating the school for Hallowe'en (it was very spooky indeed!) and providing treats for the pupils. We really appreciate it. I want to say a big well done to the pupils themselves. It is very evident that a significant amount of work has gone on at home regarding safety in relation to Covid-19. Your children are a credit to you all.

With all of that said, it is important now more than ever to continue and increase these safety measures. Keep –

1. Washing your hands
2. Catching your coughs and/or sneezes
3. Maintaining a social distance

We strongly encourage everyone to adhere to public health advice as what happens in the community has an impact on our school.

Currently, it is planned that all schools will reopen after the mid-term break on Monday 2nd November. In the unlikely (and unfortunate) event that the school does not reopen on that day, we are sending a folder with a small number of books home with pupils today (Friday 23rd October). This folder does not need to be opened unless books need to be used for school work. In that event, please sanitise them before they come back into the school. Stationery has also been sent home with pupils and this can stay at home so that pencils, rubbers, pens etc. are not travelling in and out of school. Thank you to the Book Rental Committee for organising this. Teachers will not be checking their emails over the mid-term break but if you need to contact the school, please email office@slanens.ie and I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy, safe and well-deserved week off.

Is mise le meas,

Lorna Gerrard

Lorna Gerrard
Acting Principal



Proud of our school's achievements