



12th August 2020

RE: Re-opening of Burrane National School

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. The BOM has met to discuss plans for the safe re-opening of the school and to assess risks associated with Covid – 19. As you are aware, many changes must be made to schools including classroom layouts, cleaning routines, enhanced hygiene practices and limiting contact. We are working on a plan to ensure that we can provide an appropriate environment for children and staff to return in light of the on-going pandemic. Below are a few points to help you prepare for the safe return to school.

- Sanitizers and new soap dispensers and hand towels have been installed in all classrooms and support rooms.
- September will see a new normal in terms of social distancing in schools. You may have heard terms such as 'bubbles' and 'pods'. A bubble is a class and pods are simply groups within that class. The classes in Burrane N.S. have been successfully laid out to safely accommodate pods. There is no social distancing required between pods in the junior room children in 3rd-6th will be seated 1 metre apart.
- Parents must ensure that their child has his/her own box of tissues and pack of disinfectant wipes which are **labelled** coming to school. (Please buy boxes of handkerchiefs as opposed to the small packets)
- It is requested that all personal items **books/writing equipment/lunch boxes/water bottles, uniform etc.** have the child's name on them for ease of identification.
- Water bottles are to be filled at home every evening.
- Children are to go to the bathroom and wash their hands **before** they leave home for school daily.
- **Uniforms:** Despite the conflicting reports in the media regarding the daily washing of uniforms the board has decided that this will not be required. Uniform/PE clothes are to be changed daily. Children are to remove their uniform / PE clothes as soon as they return home after school and they are to be aired/washed (if soiled) for next day needed at school. This is to avoid the spread of germs as a child may have coughed or sneezed into their sleeve as per coughing/sneezing protocols. Going forward children will be required to wear their uniform/pe clothes on specific days. It was based on this decision that we have changed colour of our shirt to light blue. The red shirt is not as easily available as the blue colour and there are more options regarding comfort, girl's blouses and short sleeves when purchasing blue shirts as per government guidelines relating to affordable uniforms.
 - **Monday, Wednesday and Friday – Uniform Clothes (Shirt and Navy Jumper, pinafore etc.)**
 - **Tuesday and Thursday – PE Clothes (Polo Shirt, PE Top & tracksuit bottoms)**

In order to see the difference in the Jumper/PE tops and to facilitate airing the uniforms the board has decided to organize a crested PE top. This will be available to order from the school on **Wednesday 19th August from 6:30-7:30pm.** The cost of this top will be €20 up to age 11 and €25 from 12 years upwards (photo attached). The board will pay half the cost for parents. While waiting for these tops parents are asked to allocate a comfortable top/hoodie already owned by your child for PE wear. We appreciate this is late notice and we hope you understand the reasons for these changes, the health and safety of our pupils and school community is at the forefront of all our decisions. We will keep you informed as our Re-Opening Plan develops and please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding the above

Kind Regards,

Helen Kelly