

18th June 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Normally in the month of June, all of our schools would have had many fun events in school from Nursery to Year 7. Sadly, we have been unable to carry these out as well as many other events that have passed in April and May due to the COVID 19 Pandemic and adherence to Government Lockdown guidance. This situation has been unprecedented and very challenging to us all.

There has been much speculation about when and how schools will reopen in August or September. The facts are at present, that the Department of Education have not issued any guidance to schools regarding school reopening and have stated that they will not be in a position to do this until 26th June 2020. One thing that we do know is that when schools reopen we will all have to adapt to a “New normal” in order to adhere to Social Distancing Guidelines so that the school remains safe for pupils and staff alike. This “New normal” will therefore require a lot of careful planning, consultation and in some cases physical changes to classrooms. Our main priority will be to minimise risk and try to ensure that every possible measure has been taken so that when we do issue a plan for reopening to you, that all areas of concern will have been considered and that you can feel informed, confident and assured that your child’s health and well being is our main priority as well as delivering education in the classroom combined with distance learning.

We understand that this lack of guidance at this stage is frustrating for you as it is for us however you can be assured that as soon as we have been issued with clear guidance going forward we will share this with you. This may mean that we will share information with you through our normal channels of communication during the Summer Holidays.

In the meantime, we can only thank you for your ongoing support and understanding in what has been a very challenging time for your child, you, your family, our staff and our community as a whole.

We eagerly look forward to the time when we return to a new normal.

Strabane and District Principals’ Group

Artigarvan PS – Mrs J harper

Donemana PS – Mrs G Hayes

Gaelscoil Ui Dhochartaigh, Strabane- Mrs M NiDhochartaigh

Knockavoe School, Strabane – Mrs S Cassidy

St Catherine’s PS, Strabane- Mrs B Wilders

St Columba’s Clady - Mrs D McElmurray

St Eugene’s Victoria Bridge – Miss L Gormley

St Mary’s PS, Cloughcor- Mrs A Devine

St Mary’s PS, Strabane – Mrs S O’Doherty

St Michael’s PS, Dunamanagh- Mrs J Carlin

St Theresa’s PS, Glebe- Mr G Brogan

Sion Mills PS – Mrs O Mc Nelis

Strabane PS.- Mrs C Thompson