



# St. Mary's Primary School

20 Cloughcor Road, Ballymagorry, Strabane, Co. Tyrone. BT82 0BE.

Telephone No: 028 7184 1237

Principal: Mrs A Devine

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

Dear Parent/Person with Parental Responsibility,

School officially ended on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 12 noon.

I have been spending my time this week trying to organise our school for the new school year!

Using the guidance provided by the Department of Education we are planning and looking at the precautions we need to put in place to ensure the health and safety of all our pupils and staff once we return.

## **Proposed Plan**

The guidance given by Government/HSE/PHA at PRESENT emphasises that social distancing will be key to controlling the spread of COVID-19 and that each child should remain at least one metre apart in any classroom, which will result in less children in any classroom due the classroom size.

Due to this we may have to incorporate a "Bubble Strategy" wherein each class will be halved and brought into school for split teaching sessions. Each half of the class will be known as a protective "bubble" and **Bubble A** pupils will attend school for two full days (Monday & Tuesday starting **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August**) and **Bubble B** pupils will attend school for two full days (Thursday & Friday starting **27<sup>th</sup> August, 28<sup>th</sup> August**). School will be cleaned on Wednesday and teachers will prepare for Blended Remote Learning. **Bubble A** pupils will continue to come to school every Monday and Tuesday thereafter and likewise **Bubble B** pupils will attend school every Thursday and Friday.

## **Primary 7 Pupils**

**ALL** Primary 7 pupils will return to school on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August**.

## **Pupil Arrangements**

It is our intention, **where possible**, that all members of the same immediate family will be placed in the same protective bubble sessions so that a family attends school on the same days of the week.

## **Health & Safety**

The health and safety of all of our pupils and staff is paramount as outlined in Government guidelines and if guidance changes we may not have to explore the route mentioned above. However, I feel it is important to inform you of our plan in the event of social distancing boundaries remaining as they stand at present.

I would ask that you keep me informed of updated accurate mobile phone numbers via our school info account [info@stmarys.strabane.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stmarys.strabane.ni.sch.uk) or contact me via our school website [www.stmaryspscloughcor.com](http://www.stmaryspscloughcor.com) as we will be in touch with you shortly with regards the bubbles and dates your child will be starting back to school. Further guidance will follow early August regarding bus and dinner plans for your child.

### **Heartfelt Thanks**

I know that the scenario outlined above is not ideal, however, the CURRENT guidance does not allow us to facilitate ALL our pupils on site at the one time as our classroom sizes simply are not big enough.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience, understanding and for your support throughout what has been such a difficult time.

Enjoy the time you have with each other and I look forward to communicating with you again in August.

Yours sincerely,



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**Mrs Andrea Devine**

**SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

