** St. Canice Primary School and Nursery Unit**

 **11 Curragh Road**

 **Dungiven**

 **BT47 4SE**

**Principal:** Mr Ciarán Loane

17 June 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we enter the final weeks of the school year, a number of important events/dates should be noted.

**End of Year School Mass**

Our special school Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 24th June at 11.00a.m.

This Mass will broadcast via St Patrick’s Church Webcam.

**Home School Learning**

Home School Learning for Nursery –Y7 pupils will finish on Tuesday 23rd June.

**Collection Days Thursday 25th and Friday 26th June 9.00a.m.- 12noon**

Pupil Folders will be available for collection in the school hall and canteen.

Contained in these Pupil Folders will be your child’s Annual Report and a letter regarding your child’s new class for September 2020.

Photographs taken by the school photographer back in February will also be available for collection with your child’s folder.

The school is waiting on Y7 Confirmation photographs to be delivered. When the school receives them, we will contact the Y7 Parents.

Each class has a specific table.One person from each family should attend the collection. Children should not be brought to the school.It is recommended that a schoolbag/ carrier bag should be used to collect each child’s file, belongings and report. We ask that adults follow the social distancing advice.

Hand sanitisers located at both the front door and exit doors.

**September 2020**

The re-opening of our school in September will be taken on the basis of advice and guidance provided by the Department of Education. We await the Minister’s guidance and direction for school re-opening. Once this advice has been communicated, only then can the Board of Governors begin to focus on the school re-opening.

The Board of Governors will prepare a plan to re-open based on the Health and Safety of our pupils and staff. When this plan has been agreed, it will be communicated to all parents/guardians.

It is already evident that a “**Phased Return**” of pupils will take place.

Pupils may only be at school part of the week with the other week days based at home where they will complete teacher set work.

Using both School and Home to educate your child has been termed by the Department of Education as, “**Blended Learning**”.

Teaching staff are already preparing for learning and teaching in this new way.

Communication about the plan to start school in September will be vital. Please watch for notifications on our school website [www.stcanicespsdungiven.com](http://www.stcanicespsdungiven.com) and on our Parents Association Facebook page. Additionally, we will use your postal address to send correspondence.

**School Uniform**

Earlier this year a survey relating to the school jumper was undertaken. Option 2 won by a slight majority. From September 2020 a phased introduction will take place. All year 1 pupils will wear a red jumper. Y2 – Y7 Boys may continue to wear their existing grey jumper for this school year. However, if a new boy’s jumper is required, a red jumper should be purchased.

The school uniform is available from Groogan’s, Main Street Dungiven.

**First Communion**

It has been unfortunate that Year 4 have been unable to make their First Communion as planned in May. This very important milestone in the lives of our children and our school will take place when it is safe to do so and when we have agreed the way forward with Fr Kelly.

The Covid 19 pandemic has really changed everything in our lives since March 2020.

It has been a very trying period. Home Learning was thrust upon all of us. No one in Education has ever experienced home schooling to such an extent. Lessons have been learned by everyone. The experiences, both positive and negative will be used, to benefit primary education.

As we focus on trying to reopen our school in September, we as school community will face into the unknown once again. Phasing children into school and combining both School and Home settings will be challenging. Time will be required for the changes. The normal school day will be different with many new practical arrangements.

What is certain, is that we look forward to welcoming all our boys and girls back to our school especially our new Nursery and Year 1 pupils.

On behalf of all our staff, I wish to thank you for your tremendous support to your child/children since our school was forced to close. We appreciate all your efforts and encourage you to look with fondness at the valuable time you have been afforded with your child.

Thank You for your continued support.

Stay Safe and I wish you all a well-deserved Summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Ciarán Loane Principal