



## Allen National School

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School Website: [www.allennationalschool.com](http://www.allennationalschool.com)

Registered Charity Number: 20124496

11<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian, Staff Member,

### **RE: Re-opening of Allen National School**

We hope you and your families are keeping well and that you have enjoyed your summer break.

As you are aware, our school building has been closed since 12<sup>th</sup> March due to the COVID-19 situation. While the building has been closed the Board wishes to acknowledge the huge effort of our Principal, and staff, and you the parents and pupils, in keeping teaching and learning going during the March to June period. We extend our sincere thanks to you all for your co-operation in what was a very challenging time for everyone.

Like other Boards, we are now preparing to re-open our school, under the guidance and following the recommendations where possible of the Department of Education and Skills.

Re-opening the school safely will require the co-operation of all members of our School Community – BoM, school leadership, staff members, parents and pupils. We will all be called on to play our part in ensuring that the re-opening of our school is done in a safe manner and we all need to adhere to the procedures and protocols which are designed to mitigate against the spread of the virus. These procedures may seem strange at first but it is important we all implement them and do not allow complacency to set in. Following our new rules will allow the vital work of teaching and learning to proceed with as little disruption as possible.

Ms McDonagh has been working to research and inform us of the requirements needed to safely re-open our school since the end of July. We are ready now to engage with you, our education partners to develop our specific School Response Plan. I am asking all Board members, staff and parents to engage with this process. By working together and understanding the process we will have collective ownership of the plan and the knowledge to act responsibly to keep each other safe. Once drafted we will make the plan available to you all. The Response Plan will give details of the BoM's procedures for:

- Planning and preparing for returning to school
- Our COVID-19 Policy
- Our Safety Statement and Risk Assessment
- General advice to prevent the spread of the virus
- How we will deal with suspected cases should they arise
- What will happen if we have staff absences
- General and specific advice on how all pupils, staff, parents and visitors will prevent the spread of the virus

We will also published our COVID-19 Policy Statement on the school website. On behalf of the Board of Management, myself and Ms McDonagh will keep you informed as to our progress and we will provide you with the information required by you to play your part in safely re-opening the school.

We are really looking forward to welcoming the children back to school and will be doing all that we can to ensure that the return to school is a safe and enjoyable experience for them. Ms McDonagh will be in touch with you continuously now until we re-open. Please give her communications your full attention and respond to requests for information as quickly as possible.

Again, I thank you all for your support to date and look forward to your continued co-operation in overcoming the challenges that lie ahead, to ensure our pupils and staff return to a safe, welcoming and happy teaching and learning environment.

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*Damien Keating*

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Chairperson, Board of Management

The following websites provide further information on COVID-19 and on government advice and recommendations regarding the re-opening of schools: -

- <https://www.education.ie/en/covid-19/>
- <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>
- <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/a128d-back-to-school/?referrer=http://www.gov.ie/backtoschool/>