

Summer Newsletter June 2020



School Year 2019/2020

This school year has certainly been very unique for everyone in our school community. Who would have thought as we returned in September 2019 that our school would have closed its doors on March 12th for the rest of the school year. The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic certainly brought huge challenges for everyone. The rapid roll out of distance learning was very difficult particularly for our pupils and parents. Trying to help children with their school work as well as working from home was a huge challenge for many of our parents during this time. All the teachers of the school were really delighted with the response from everyone. The standard of work returned by our pupils on a weekly basis was very high and some of that work can be seen on our Distance Learning site. We can only applaud all our pupils and parents for their hard work, creativity and dedication to learning during the closure. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank our parents for all their help with facilitating book collections and drop offs in recent weeks as well as returning online forms in a prompt fashion to ensure the smooth running of the school for next year.

I would like to thank all our staff for their help, dedication and hard work this year. Distance Learning was a learning curve for everyone but our staff met the challenge head on and endeavoured to ensure that learning could continue during the closure.

Of course, the pupils also missed out on meeting their friends on a daily basis. This is a very important aspect of school life which we hope will return as normal as possible in September.

Return to School



As of now, the school will open again on Monday 31st August. The Department of Education and Skills did issue some guidance on Friday afternoon regarding the reopening of schools for next year. You will have read some commentary in the media on this. The major stumbling block when it comes to reopening is the social distancing

requirements that are in place at present. The Department seems to be advocating a 'wait and see' approach with regard to the 2 metre rule in place as of now. The Department's stated objective is to have a full reopening of schools in late August. The hope is that schools will be able to return in the normal way. There is an acceptance that social distancing requirements are very difficult to obey in a school setting. Obviously these requirements will be dictated by public health advice at the time of reopening. All schools are awaiting further guidance and clarification as to how we will return. Increased hand sanitisation, enhanced cleaning regimes and restricted movements within schools will form part of the guidance when it arrives during the summer. The school will provide further clarification for parents once it is issued by the Departments.

In an effort to keep things as normal as possible, we will be sending booklists, reports and next year's classes out to parents by post this week. We have allocated classes in the normal way using our Class Allocation Policy.



6th class Graduation

We were very disappointed this year that we couldn't celebrate our 6th class graduation in the normal way. They will create history in Bruree NS next week by taking part in the school's first online graduation ceremony. We are looking forward to sharing some wonderful memories of their time in the school with them. This year's 6th class were a particularly lovely bunch and they were the first class I got to know well when I came to Bruree N.S. They were a class of many talents and really led the way in the school this year which is a great sign of a 6th class. Everyone in the school community would like to wish Leona, Kayla, Chloe, Ava, Rachel, Gemma, Grace, Molly, Meadhb, Dawn, Diane, Katie, Bryan, John, Conor, Paul, Niall, Jack, Jamie, Cian and Garrett the very best of luck as they continue onto their secondary education. We look forward to hearing many great things about them in the coming years and no doubt some will return on work experience or maybe even as teachers themselves in the future.

Communion Class

Our 2nd class also missed out on their big day in May. While they were obviously disappointed not to be able to make their Holy Communion in the normal way with their friends, family and the local community, the diocese are putting plans in place to hold the sacraments in the near future. We are looking forward to celebrating the big day with Megan, Vivienne, Gráinne, Tara, Emily, Róisín, Caitlin, Eimear, Suzanne, Anais, Emma, Madison, Melissa, Lauren, Cathal, James, Páidí, Jack, Michael Junior, Henry, Donncha and Jay.

Book Rental

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to next year's Book Rental scheme. Books will be distributed to pupils in early September. If you haven't yet signed up, please do so using the following link-
<https://bit.ly/3clXayw>

Summer Holidays



As this extraordinary school year comes to an end, we would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe summer holiday. We are already looking forward to seeing everyone return after the summer.