

Dear Oakfield Parents,

Our school governors trust that you and your families continue to keep safe and well during this period of lockdown due to Covid 19. All our teaching staff have been working hard, in school and at home, to ensure your children have been engaged in home learning. They are very appreciative of the partnership learning work you have undertaken with your children during this time.

It appears that some degree of normality is returning to society in Northern Ireland, and we hope that this development continues in the weeks ahead. At present the Department of Education has not yet issued clear, definitive guidance to schools on our return to school. You will have heard a variety of ideas and opinions being aired on media platforms by a range of individuals, including some school principals. *These are currently exploratory ideas - no firm arrangements have been put in place.*

Education Minister, Peter Weir has told school leaders that all children will return to school in the Autumn Term 2020. However, what that is going to look like in practical terms remains unclear. Following a live webinar with Peter Weir, on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm, we know that there will be a phased return to school for primary school pupils beginning with Primary 7. The date of August 17<sup>th</sup> has been suggested.

Social distancing measures will be in operation and hygiene protocols will be strictly adhered to. The safety of all our pupils and staff will, as always, be of paramount importance.

We have been informed that more guidance will be issued to schools by the Department of Education in the last week of June. This is extremely frustrating for us, as we cannot inform parents about timings, new procedures and practical arrangements. However, please be assured that we are keeping in daily contact with the Department of Education, and we will let you know, as soon as possible, about safe, specific arrangements for our pupils returning to school.

For now, we wish to update you about Oakfield Primary School and Nursery Unit reports. All parents will be receiving their child's end of year pupil profile on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June via email. (It is important we have your up to date email address, as correspondence will be sent electronically to the address held by school on the SIMS system. If this has changed within the last few months and school has not been informed, please contact us as soon as possible to update your information.) In this email, we will also attach the name of your child's new teacher for 2020/2021 and list specific school requirements needed for your child's next academic year group. Also we have included a link to an online pupil/parent questionnaire to gauge your thoughts and feelings about your experiences during lockdown and for looking to the new school year.

Many thanks

George McCluskey  
Principal  
Oakfield PS & NU

