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Head Teacher: Maura Furber

**'Embracing Learning.
Inspiring Ambition.
Celebrating Individuality'**

14th July 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope that you and your families continue to be well and safe. It has been lovely to see so many children back in school. The return to school has been extremely positive and children have quickly settled back in and are enjoying being with their peers again. I would also like to thank parents whose children have not been eligible to return to school on the sustained efforts you have made regarding Home Learning. As you may be aware, the official guidance for the next academic year has been released and I am delighted that we will be able to welcome every child back to school in September. The process of full reopening will be consistent across all An Daras Trust Schools. The Trust is totally committed to **all** pupils being able to return to school safely in September. The guidance from the government does make clear that attendance at school is compulsory for every child from September.

There are a number of operational aspects to this which need to be implemented to ensure that we are first and foremost adhering to the government guidance for safe reopening. From September each class will be a 'bubble'. They will remain with their bubble for all lessons and breaks. The exceptions to this will be children attending breakfast club or travelling to school on a taxi. The school staff will be able to move freely between bubbles. Intervention groups and after school clubs should be able to run again. However, staff will maintain social distancing and avoid contact wherever possible.

Pupils will be going up to the next year group as usual. The school curriculum, although focusing on core subjects and catch up where required, will still be broad and balanced giving children experiences in all foundation subjects. A full hot service for school dinners will be available. There will be some changes to the layout of classrooms and children will not be working in grouped tables facing inwards. They will instead be working in forward facing rows as much as possible. We are also considering how best to have the children enter and exit the school at drop off and collection. These operational activities, and any other changes and adaptations we make will be communicated to you by the end of term.

We will still require parents/carers to work with us, especially with regards to drop off and collection. Parents will not be able to congregate on the school grounds or outside the school gates. Parents will continue to access the school office by appointment only. At the forefront of our approach to the return will be children's well-being, identifying and addressing gaps in learning and resuming school life as quickly as possible. The COVID-19 risk assessment will be updated in due course and is available on the website.

Thank you for your continued support.

Maura Furber
Head Teacher

