

*Mercy Convent Primary School,
Naas,
Co. Kildare.*



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2nd November 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian,

On your behalf, I welcome Mr. Cathal Ruane on his first day as our new school Principal. Mr. Ruane has been a school Principal, for a number of years, and brings a lot of experience with him to our school.

We have had a challenging time during September and October, and I would like to thank all staff, children and parents for their support and cooperation in adopting and putting control measures in place to ensure our school is a safe place for everyone during this Covid-19 pandemic. As we return to school to complete the first school term, there is a higher incidence of Covid-19 in our local community, much higher than existed when we reopened the school on the 28th August, and consequently we each have to be more vigilant against the virus and rigorously implement the safety rules and procedures which are in place and have kept us safe until now.

Since Friday 23rd October, the Department of Education has reviewed the hygiene and cleaning products used by schools and has withdrawn approximately 50 products from the procurement list.

I can confirm that Mercy Convent Primary School did not purchase nor has it used any sanitisers or other products which were withdrawn last week by the Department of Education. All sanitisers and personal protective equipment in use at our school have been checked to be fully compliant with the most up to date Government regulations. They are also checked every time new expert advice is issued by the Department of Education and the Health Services Executive.

During the mid-term break, the Department of Education approved the tender for a new contractor, who will recommence our school building work within the next few weeks. As you read this letter, the school's design team are expediting bonds, insurances and other statutory documents which have to be obtained, checked and approved before construction work can recommence on site. This is very welcome news for everyone.

During the school year 2019, our Parent Association organised a "Buy a Brick" fundraiser which raised a considerable amount of money for our new school. Parents and friends of our school contributed generously, and very significant contributions were made by many local businesses. All contributors and businesses are displayed on a virtual wall within our school website. Covid-19 has imposed restrictions and created difficulties for everyone, but for some businesses it is going to be a question of survival in such difficult times. These same people have been very good to our school and I respectfully ask our school community to support them and use every opportunity to shop local and keep these businesses alive with your custom.

Yours sincerely,

Tony O'Sullivan

Chairperson, Board of Management.