Dear Parents,

I hope you and your families are keeping well, enjoying the fine weather and looking forward to the school reopening on August 27th. I’m sure at this stage a lot of you are wondering what the reopening will be like and how it will be managed. The government issued The Roadmap for the Full Return to School on the 27th of July. This roadmap can be found on the departments website [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie). Since the roadmap was published the Board of Management have met to discuss the reopening of our school and a ‘Back to School Committee’ has been formed to organise and oversee the reopening. Both the board and the committee will be having meetings again this coming week.

There are many issues to be teased out but I want to assure you that we will be following the guidelines to ensure a safe reopening and that at all times the safety of the children will be paramount. There will of course be changes to school life as we know it but we will be doing all we can to make the new normal as easy and as hassle free as we can for the children.

There will obviously be much less interaction between the children. Classes will remain apart throughout the day, playtimes will be staggered and great care will be taken in the mornings and evenings to ensure children enter and leave the school grounds in a manner that adheres to social distancing guidelines. Cleaning will be carried out according to the government’s guidelines for the safe reopening of schools and PPE, consumables and equipment necessary for respiratory and hand hygiene will be provided in school.

There are a couple of practical issues that the committee have already decided on. Each child will be expected to bring their own personal hygiene kit to school. Tracksuits and uniforms will be worn on alternate days. Pencil cases will be left in school. SNAs and Special Education Teachers will be assigned to particular classes and will remain with them for the day. Movement throughout the school will be kept to a minimum.

There are other issues that have to be teased out but rest assured over the next couple of weeks we will be meeting regularly to sort them out and will have all the necessary structures and procedures in place for August 27th. In the meantime if any of you have had any experience in dealing with return to work protocols or are working in any area that deals in covid related matters we would appreciate any input you could make to our plans. Also closer to the reopening we would appreciate a couple of volunteers to help with the installation of hand sanitisers, signage and paper towel holders.

Finally I have set up a separate email address, dromahanensbts@gmail.com for any of you that may have specific concerns regarding your child’s return to school. Please do not send general concerns or questions to this address. This address is only for issues that I need to be aware of regarding your child.

I will be in touch again next week with further updates on our progress as we continue to ensure that school reopening will be a safe experience for all of us.

Take care,

Denis Murray