

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s),

I hope you and your families are keeping well.

As you are aware, we were delighted to receive the Roadmap for reopening the schools as well as the Covid-19 Response Plans from the Department of Education. We are really looking forward to coming back to work and seeing all of your children again and welcoming the Junior Infants.

The safety of the children and staff of Rush National School is paramount and must come first. One of the key messages in order to manage the risk of COVID-19 is to do everything practical to avoid the introduction of COVID-19 into the school. If infection is not introduced it cannot be spread.

To this end, some new protocols and practices are being introduced.

Rush National School has devised a 'Response Plan' which the school community must follow. The Parental/Pupil Edition is a shorten version and highlights the practical changes that staff, parents and pupils need to fully adhere to. The full version is available on our school website.

For ease of reference, I have broken the Parental/Pupil Response Plan into four separate documents:

**'Return to School'**

**'How You Can Help'**

**'Accessing the School Campus'**

**'Safety Measures'**

I realise that there is a lot of information in the plan. However, it is only a fraction of the information circulated to schools regarding a safe return to school and I ask that you study it very carefully. I will have a video ready for the children next week and it will explain the new arrangements in a child friendly way.

Our key aim is that the pupils of Rush National School feel safe and secure when they return. Certain events have been postponed but we are constantly looking for imaginative solutions so that our pupils are presented with the same opportunities afforded to previous classes.

The past months have been extremely challenging for us all. The boys and girls of Rush National School have shown tremendous resilience and strength of character but the pandemic has impacted on us all. Therefore, we intend to place great emphasis on your child's well-being upon their return to school.

In order to promote the safety of our school community, new procedures/protocols have been introduced but that does not mean that the school has changed. A warm, welcoming atmosphere will always exist in Rush National School.

I ask that all members of the school community read and follow all guidelines and that we all do our utmost to keep the school open for the benefit of the boys and girls.

Thank you in advance,

Morgan Doran