Thursday 17th August 2023

Dear Parents and guardians,

I hope you and your family have enjoyed a relaxing break from the routine of school and a happy and safe holiday together. I do wish, of course, we had enjoyed better weather.

At school we are busy preparing for the return of the pupils and very much looking forward to a new academic year, full of happy moments and great successes. Staff will be in school from next week and all pupils will start on **Thursday 29th August *except for P1*** *and specialised units.*

New P1 pupils were given their individual start days and times on Induction Day ; please contact us if you are unsure about this. The Nest and the Den pupils will be contacted soon about start dates. The rooms are still a work-in-progress.

Please make every effort to start school on the first day; it will be a gentler, less tiring return to school to have two days followed by a weekend. It is good to be with your new class right from the start.

I am sure you have been busy preparing too, getting uniform, school bags and child-care organised. In no time at all we will soon all be back in our school term-time routines. I know the children will be excited about seeing friends. Do please remember to label all the new school clothes and make use of the Pop-Up Uniform Shop in town. Details on facebook .

I will continue for the present in my role as acting principal for the foreseeable future with Mrs McKenna as vice -principal and we have a few staff changes. (see attached newsletter)

We are excited to be opening two Specialised Units for children with additional learning needs: The Nest and the Den. We see these units as happy additions to our school community and warmly welcome the pupils who are moving into them from our mainstream classes or joining them from other schools in the locality.

We look forward to being back together as the family community that we are. If your family or children have had any changes over the holiday that you wish to share with us, please do call in over the next few days or telephone.

Our ethos goal this academic year will be Faith and we will be exploring this together in many creative & prayerful ways throughout the year.

I wish all our pupils and their families a wonderful start to this new school year. Your children are a blessing to us and we are privileged to teach them here. Rest assured we will treasure, nurture and have high expectations for each one of them. As parents I know you will support us and encourage them to make the best of all the opportunities they have. Let us continue to work as partners in our children’s educational journey.

Please feel free to ring the school office from Monday 21st August onwards if you have any questions about anything and please take time to read the accompanying newsletter which contains some information, reminders and the school calendar/ holidays.

With my sincere best wishes for the new academic year,

**AM McLaughlin**

Mrs. AM McLaughlin (acting principal)