**From The Principal’s Desk** 23rd October 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

On behalf of all my colleagues I would like to **thank you for your phenomenal support** over the past few months. While we face big issues around the world, and in our country, it is the many small things which make the world go around.

There is no doubt that the **children are better off at school**. We have noticed a remarkable change in our pupils compared to how they were in early September. It is clear that, in general, they do need the structure of school, and the experience of shared learning with their peers.

**We can also say that it is safe in our school**. We are lucky with the building, and we have very strict procedures. The ‘bubbles’ we created for each classroom are working. We have assigned two teachers per classroom, and SNAs in some. There is no crossover between classrooms, except in a few controlled individual cases.

There are a few other small things which have really helped us over the past few months:

* **Thank you for checking your children’s health each morning**. Parents who called, or emailed us, with updates on why their child may not be coming to school that day is crucial. It meant we did not have to make decisions on sending children home for health reasons.
* **Parents who updated us on their close contact experiences**. This has been a worrying time for families who are being tested or awaiting results. By sharing your story with us, we are learning how these systems work. It helps us to reassure other families as well as refine our own procedures.
* **Children’s adaptability and behaviour.** The children have been very understanding and very good to each other. Their support for each other is very encouraging.
* **Adults wearing masks** and social distancing at our gates after school. One can notice how this behaviour is becoming the new normal.
* **Stress definitely does not work**. Adults being more patient has definitely helped. If things take a little more time, then so be it – whether you are driving or waiting in a queue.

Those of you who are feeling the effects of this pandemic in any way are in our thoughts and prayers. Pick up the phone and share. We will return to school on **Monday 2nd November.**

**Happy Hallowe’en**

**Micheal O’Sullivan,**

**Principal**