**10/12/2020**

**Dear Parents,**

**We have almost reached the end of what has been a very busy term, the children have worked so hard and have really benefitted from a consistent term of high quality teaching and learning. Thank you for all your support this year as we faced the challenge of dealing with the arrival of Covid 19 in our lives, it has been a year we will never forget.**

**The health and well-being of all our children in school is our number one priority. Every day in recent weeks I have been thankful that our school community has kept healthy and well and free from Covid 19. This is due in no small part to your support and the hard work of all our staff and the efforts that the children have made to adapt.**

**If a case of Covid 19 affects a bubble in our school from Saturday 12th December onwards then there will be a requirement for close contacts and classes to self isolate up to and including Christmas Day and onwards. This is a situation none of us want to find ourselves in. You have all made such sacrifices this year that we want you to have a safe and happy Christmas with your children and families.**

**The Minister of Education had very clearly said that schools will not shut early for Christmas although you will be aware of other schools who have taken that decision based on increased cases in the community. With this in mind we have decided to close school on Friday the 18th of December. Many parents have already made the decision to keep their children at home from Friday 11th in order to keep them safe in the lead up to Christmas. If you choose to keep your child at home from Friday 11th December we completely respect, understand and support this decision and we will provide work for your child and their attendance will not be affected if they are working at home.**

**If you feel that this is something that you wish to avail of then please feel free to contact the school. Please note the following plans for the end of term.**

* **Term 2 will end on Friday 18th December at our normal times.**
* **Our December Birthday Party will be on Friday 11th.**
* **If parents wish for their children to remain at home next week they may do so. A Christmas booklet will be provided and children will be marked present.**
* **Please take extra care to socially distance when collecting children at the school gate.**

**I appreciate that our end of term date has changed to the earlier date of the 18th of December and I apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause.**

**Again please accept my personal thanks for your continued support. I have thought long and hard as to how to best keep everyone safe and I am very proud of all our children and staff and what we have achieved to come this far with minimal disruptions in our school.**

**I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and I really hope you all get to spend it with your family free from any restrictions.**

**Best wishes and God bless,**

**Kieran McCrory**