



18th August 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian & Students,

We hope that you have had a safe and enjoyable summer so far and that you and your family are keeping well. This is an exciting time for all 1st year students as you embark on the next chapter of a journey of lifelong learning. We are all looking forward to meeting you and supporting you through your secondary school years.

At the end of July, the Department of Education published the 'Roadmap for Returning to School' which is available on our school website for you to review. Since then, the Senior Leadership Team in LMETB, with the LMETB Director of Schools, have held a number of meetings to develop the Bush Post Primary School Plan for a full return to school. We look forward in the coming weeks to outlining the main important elements of this plan to you.

There is no doubt that it will be a challenge for our school, with classrooms that once held 30 students which will now be limited to only hold 30, 24 or 20 depending on their size. We are currently looking at the safest places to teach and learn for both students and staff to ensure the full return to school in line with Public Health Advice and the Department of Education's roadmap for the re-opening of schools. We are making every possible effort to redesign our school campus in order to adhere to these guidelines before the start of the next academic year.

Please find enclosed an information pack for all incoming 1st year students which outlines key personnel and provides valuable advice in advance of starting on Monday, 31st August, at 9.00am.

If your child is deemed vulnerable due the health conditions or personal circumstances, we will organise to meet you or phone you in advance, to plan specifically around their needs. We already have a Bush Post Primary Health Register but in light of Covid-19, we ask that all Parents/Guardians of students that may be in this category to email the school at bushpp@lmetb.ie with the subject title: **COVID VULNERABLE STUDENT**.

Please include a full description of the vulnerability in light of the Covid-19 Pandemic in the email and if further information is required, we will follow up with you individually.

Please note the following key points in relation to reopening in late August/September 2020:

1. Our focus for all students and staff upon our return is to establish safe routines and develop new habits in combatting the spread of Covid-19.
2. Instructions that will be issued by the school in the coming week (drop off, entering and exiting the building, face masks, use of materials, hand hygiene, lunch time procedures etc.) must be **fully** adhered to.
3. Promoting personal responsibility at home and in school will be essential in protecting our school community.
4. All extra-curricular activities and our after school study will be postponed in the short term.
5. On the days that your child has PE, they will wear their track suit for the full day as changing rooms will not be available.

I will be in contact with you again in the coming week with further details and we will continue to send updates and links through text messages and our school website.

Finally, I look forward to your help and support as we endeavour to get Bush Post Primary School back up to full capacity for the 2020/2021 academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Kevin Joyce

Principal

Mrs. Sinéad McDonnell

Deputy Principal