12th August 2020.

Dear Parent / Guardian,

**RE: Re-opening of Scoil Treasa and Scoil Carmel**

I hope you and your families are keeping well.

As you are aware, our schools have now been closed since 12th March due to the COVID-19 situation. We are now hoping to re-open our schools safely, in line with current guidance and recommendations on Monday August 31st.

Re-opening the schools safely will require the co-operation of all members of our School Community – BoM, School Leadership, Staff, Parents and Pupils. We will all be called on to play our part in ensuring that re-opening of the schools is done in a safe manner which prevents the spread of the virus and allows the vital work of Teaching and Learning to proceed with as little disruption as possible.

We have been working on our plans for the safe reopening of the schools for some weeks now and are adapting the DES COVID-19 Response Plan for the safe and sustainable reopening of Primary and Special Schools. The Response Plan gives details of

* Physical preparation, signage, hand sanitiser stations,
* Advice, procedures and training for the safe return to working in the school for all school staff and pupils
* General and specific advice on how all pupils, staff, parents and visitors will prevent the spread of the virus

We are also working on our COVID-19 Policy Statement. Our BoM will keep you informed as to the progress of our re-opening plans and provide you with the information required by you to play your part in safely re-opening the school.

We are really looking forward to welcoming our children back to school and will be doing all that we can to ensure that the return to school is a safe and enjoyable experience for the children. We will be in touch with you again before school re-opens. Please watch the school websites for the latest updates. We will inform you about our staggered opening/ closing times ASAP so that you can make arrangements to deliver and collect children from both schools

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Ursula Martin. Gerard O’ Meara

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The following websites provide further information on COVID-19 and on government advice and recommendations regarding the re-opening of schools: -

* <https://www.education.ie/en/covid-19/>
* <https://www2.hse.ie/coronavirus/>
* <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/a128d-back-to-school/?referrer=http://www.gov.ie/backtoschool/>