

Dear parents and guardians,

As we begin the second week of our return to school and familiarise ourselves with new routines and practices, the Board of Management would like to take this opportunity to thank a number of people and groups. The return to school 2020/21 has been particularly special and unique for the GVET community for two reasons – the ongoing reality and presence of COVID in all our lives and the impact this has on children, teaching and learning, but also, given the ongoing building works that the GVET school community has endured.

In recognition of this unique set of circumstances, we would like to thank the parents and guardians of the school for their ongoing understanding and support. We know that Andrea and staff members received many messages of support and thanks during the last academic year and during this week. This is very much appreciated. We are also grateful to the PTA for their contributions in planning the return to school and for their assistance with supervising drop off and collections.

Secondly, we would like to thank the staff of GVET. Their ongoing commitment to the children and the school during challenging times is very much appreciated. We are confident that their professionalism and dedication to the children's wellbeing and learning will create a positive and safe environment for all this year. In particular, we would like to offer a word of sincere thanks and gratitude to the school's Principal, Andrea, for working tirelessly to achieve a positive school opening for the children this year. This has required extensive time over the last number of months focussed on the school's building work, communicating with the building contractors, monitoring deadlines and liaising with the relevant Department of Education bodies. She has also led the development of new plans and protocols, with the support of the school leadership team. This work includes a series of communications that are currently being sent out to you on a letter-by-letter basis. The purpose of these is to inform you of return to school policies and procedures and also update you on building works.

Together, this unique set of circumstances has made the return to school this year more special and challenging. We are grateful to all the school community for their commitment to ensuring it is a positive one for the children.

Yours sincerely,

Fintan Murphy – Chairperson

Bernadette Kelly – Staff Nominee

Brendan Hollywood- Parent Nominee

Daniel Rodriguez- Community Nominee

Helen Hawkins- Parent Nominee

Lisa Donnelly- Community Nominee

Maria Barry – Patron Nominee