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Principal: Mr. John Brennan Deputy Principal: Mrs. Mary Kearney Secretary: Mrs. Rebecca Flynn

Thursday, 12th March, 2020

Dear Parents,

As you may have heard through the media, the Taoiseach Mr. Varadkar has announced that “The following measures will come into effect from 6pm today, until 29 March.

Schools colleges and childcare facilities will close from tomorrow, Friday 13th inclusive.

Over the past fortnight, as a staff, we have tried to implement measures to safeguard your child, by providing them with the facts and advice on correct prevention measures on the coronavirus, as per the H.S.E.

On Wednesday, 4th March, we closed the school as a precaution. This was done after requesting advice from the H.S.E. on Tuesday evening. The H.S.E.’s response was not being made before 10a.m., so the decision to close the school had to take place before school opened.

As a Principal for 24years, and Reserve Army officer for 30years, this was not a rash decision on my behalf, but made on very concerning grounds. I wish to thank you, the parents of this school, for your understanding, trust and support on that day and since. I am sorry for the upset, discomfort and discommoding this caused, but can reassure you that the decision was made “in good faith” for all concerned, pupils, staff and the local community of Athboy.

We do not know what the next number of weeks will hold and as the Taoiseach stated “We have not witnessed a pandemic of this nature in living memory. We need to look out for each other”. We wish all families safe health over the coming weeks. A decision on school re-opening on Monday, 30th March will be made in time.

I thank you again for your support, and trust in us with your child/children. We have tough and challenging times for everyone ahead and, as a staff, we are relieved that the safeguarding of your child is now in your hands.

Best wishes and take care,

John Brennan, Principal and the staff of O’Growney National School.