6th January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As I'm sure you are aware, in an attempt to counteract the increasing rates of coronavirus transmission, the Education Minister Peter Weir has released further directives for schools. **All Primary Schools have been directed to teach remotely until the February mid-term break.**

P1-3 pupils will use Seesaw and P4-7 pupils will use Google Classroom. Two packs are being prepared by teachers. The first pack can be collected on Friday 8th Jan between 1pm and 4pm. This pack will support remote learning from 7th to 15th January. A second pack will be available for collection on Friday 15thJanuary between 1pm and 4pm. This pack will support learning between 18th January and 12th February.

**The school will be open from Thursday 7th January for supervised learning, if needed.**  **This facility is available to children of key workers or children who are considered vulnerable.**

This is supervised learning, not face to face teaching and pupils will be supervised completing activities that would otherwise be completed at home. **It should only be considered as a last resort if there is no other alternative, as we are trying to keep our school community and wider community safe.** The fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in our community. Supervision, if needed, will be made available during school hours only.  P1 & P2 – 8.45am to 2pm, P3 to P7 – 8.45am to 3pm.

**In order for us to plan for appropriate levels of supervision each week, please inform me via email at** **mredmond460@c2kni.net****by 5pm each Thursday if your child needs to avail of supervised learning in school the following week.  Please indicate on your email your child's name, class and parent’s occupation, work place and the days you require.  We will contact all applications and confirm if we can offer your child a place. If you do not hear from us, please ring the office to confirm. Your child cannot attend school unless a place has been confirmed.**

See below the definitions of ‘key worker’ and ‘vulnerable’:

Definition of key workers*:*

* Health and Social Care.  This includes doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, home carers and staff required to maintain our health and social care sector;
* Education and childcare.  This includes pre-school and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who will remain active during the Covid-19 response;
* Public safety and national security.  This includes civilians and officers in the police (including key contractors), Fire and Rescue Service, prison service and other national security roles;
* Transport.  This will include those keeping air, water, road and rail transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response;
* Utilities, and Communication.  This includes staff needed for oil, gas, electricity and water (including sewage) and primary industry supplies to continue during the Covid-19 response, as well as key staff in telecommunications, post and delivery, banking and waste disposal;
* Financial Services - This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure);
* Food and other necessary goods.  This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution and sale, as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (e.g. hygiene, medical, etc.);
* Retail. This includes those workers who have been working throughout the pandemic in food retail, for example, and will now extend to those working in other retail businesses permitted to operate by the Executive from June 2020;
* Other workers essential to delivering key public services such as the National Crime Agency; and
* Key national and local government including those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response.

Definition of a vulnerable child:

* A child who has an assigned social worker because he or she is a child in need, in need of protection (or on the child protection register) or is a looked after child.
* A child in need includes young carers, children with disabilities, and children living in families where there is domestic abuse, substance abuse, and / or mental health difficulties.
* A child who is receiving support from, or has been referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
* A child who has a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN), a child who is accessing EOTAS, or a child who normally accesses Education Nurture Units.
* A child who is ‘on-the-edge’ of receiving support from children’s social services.
* A child who is in need, including in need of protection, but whose need is not known to statutory services.
* A child who is not known to statutory or voluntary and community support services but who is vulnerable because their family is under increased pressure due to Covid-19 related circumstances.
* A young person who was previously a looked after child, whether or not they are receiving support from statutory services.
* A child who has been placed for adoption.
* Asylum seeking and refugee children and children whose parents have no recourse to public funds.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Mary Redmond

Principal