

OUR LADY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
12 MILLTOWN ROAD
BENBURB, DUNGANNON
CO.TYRONE
BT71 7NJ
Tel/Fax: 028-37548237
E-mail: info@ourladys.tullysaran.ni.sch.uk
Website: www.ourladyspstullysaran.com
Principal: Mr Tomás Mc Kee



8th January, 2021

Reference: January & February 2021 Arrangements

Dear Parents/Guardians

I write to you in response to the Minister of Education's statement on 6th January regarding remote learning at home for all pupils until the half term break in the middle of February. At the beginning of the week, when I wrote to you, I thought that this was a possibility, but it is still difficult to come to terms with the seriousness of our current situation. We would all prefer that our children were experiencing school as normal but unfortunately this will not be the case until at least after the mid-term break.

Over the course of the next five weeks we will strive to provide remote learning for all children via the use of Seesaw, Mathletics, Zoom sessions for P6 & P7 and paper packs. Further to my letter on 4th January I wish to inform you of our planned arrangements for January and February 2021.

Remote Learning/Home Schooling: Learning activities will continue to be provided via Seesaw for all classes. Staff are also putting the first of our two Home Schooling paper packs together, which will be ready for collection on Friday 15th January. These packs will include: worksheets, topic work, reading books and spellings. The work will cover a two-week period from 18th to 30th January. A second pack will then be ready for collection at the end of January which will run from 1st to 12th February. Arrangements regarding the collection of our first pack will be sent out via text message on our website on Thursday 14th January. It is vitally important that all parents make arrangements to collect the packs and encourage their child(ren) to complete all activities especially the reading. It is also essential that all reading books are returned to school after each pack is completed. Teachers will keep a record of what books have been given to each child. The school will have to be reimbursed for any books that are not returned.

The children will continue to use Seesaw to interact with their class teacher, photograph/record their work and post it on Seesaw to give their teacher the opportunity to approve or comment on their work. Children should complete two main activities each day and one activity on a Friday. Teachers have been advised to acknowledge children's work by approving it on Seesaw, to mark and comment on at least one piece for each child per day. Teachers will mark children's work and respond to parents' queries during normal school hours. Guidance has been posted on our school website on how to upload your child(ren)'s work. I am very grateful to our dedicated staff and the excellent support we receive from parents. It is important that we facilitate the children's learning but also support parents and staff with the many commitments that they have during these challenging times.

P6 & 7 will continue to participate in two Zoom calls each week (Monday and Friday) to explain and review learning activities and to give the older children an opportunity to chat and see each other. Details will be posted on the class seesaw pages prior to the Zoom sessions. All children are encouraged to read or be read to and one activity will be set on Maths Seeds (P1) and two activities on Mathletics (P2-P7) each week. Children are able to complete Live Maths activities on Mathletics after completing tasks set by their class teacher. Children with access to Nessy should access this program daily for at least 15 minutes. Please contact your child's teacher via email (addresses are below) if you have any queries or concerns or are experiencing problems when using Seesaw, Mathletics, Nessy or Zoom. Thank you.

Teacher's email addresses:

Reception/Primary One: Ms Loughran: nloughran844@c2kni.net

Primary Two: Mrs Dillon: kdillon751@c2kni.net

Primary Three: Mrs Comiskey: kcomiskey765@c2kni.net

Primary Four: Mrs Mc Cloy: amccloy737@c2kni.net

Primary Five: Mrs O'Hara: kohara636@c2kni.net

Primary Six: Mr Mc Cusker: rmccusker298@c2kni.net

Primary Seven: Mr Mc Kee & Mrs Maxwell: tmckee362@c2kni.net and amaxwell453@c2kni.net

I would encourage all parents to ensure that their child(ren) complete all set activities. Teachers will contact parents next week if their child(ren) do not respond or complete the tasks this week. It is every parent's responsibility to support their child(ren) with their learning during these difficult times. Teachers will be available to support children with their learning via Seesaw and will strive to set work that is appropriate to each child's ability.

Supervised Learning will be provided for a limited number of Vulnerable Children and children of Key workers (as per DENI guidance, attached to this letter) who cannot be safely cared for at home. Parents must email tmckee362@c2kni.net to request Supervised Learning in school. Once a place has been allocated parents should email me on a Thursday to confirm the days that supervised learning will be needed for the next week. We will facilitate emergency requests if a reason is provided although places will depend on the number of children already attending.

Children must wear their full school uniform and bring a snack and lunch with them each day. Adults should wear face coverings when dropping off and collecting their child(ren) from school. Children will be supervised in groups and will complete the same learning activities that have been set for Remote Learning. The Education Authority has advised that school transport will run as normal. There will be no Breakfast or 123 clubs while we provide Supervised Learning, however children in P1, P2 & P3 with older siblings in P4, P5, P6 & P7 will be supervised in class until 3pm. During the period of Supervised Learning school will be opened for children from 8.40am until: **1pm for Reception; 2pm for P1-P3* and 3pm for P4-P7** (*P1-P3 children with older siblings in P4-P7 will be supervised in school until 3pm).

For those children who come to school for **Supervised Learning** It is vitally important that if your child(ren) displays any **symptoms of COVID19** (*continuous cough, high temperature, loss of smell/taste*) they **MUST** not attend school or travel on school transport. Children must also not come to school if a member of their household or someone with whom they have had a close contact is being tested for COVID19. It is preferable that a child misses one or two days rather than a whole group of children or adults having to isolate for 10 days. Parents must contact the school if a member of your household tests positive for COVID19 as this could have implications for our staff, other children and their families. Staff members have also been given the same advice.

If a child displays COVID19 symptoms in school, we will isolate the child in a designated area (child will be supervised by an adult) and contact parents. You must then follow PHA guidance.

Please contact the school if you have any further queries regarding Remote Learning/Home Schooling and Supervised Learning. Hopefully school will return to face to face teaching after the February mid-term break. Please stay safe and take care.

Thanks and all the best,

Tomás Mc Kee

Tomás Mc Kee

Principal

DENI Guidance on Vulnerable Children & Key workers

The definition of **Vulnerable Children** as set out in the cross-departmental Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan 2020 is: (<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-cross-departmental-covid-19-vulnerable-children-and-young-peoples-plan>)

- 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.

Key workers are defined as:

- 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, youth 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.