

OUR LADY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Principal: Mr Tomás Mc Kee



2nd February, 2021

Reference: February 2021 Arrangements

Dear Parents/Guardians

I write to you to outline our arrangements for remote and supervised learning during the month of February.

First of all, I would like to commend our whole school community for the excellent work that has taken place over the course of January. The children have responded brilliantly to the challenge of remote learning and the staff have been delighted with the quality of their work. This is a result of the exceptional support they are receiving from you at home. Thank you. I must also take this opportunity to praise the superb work of our dedicated staff in all they have done and continue to do in providing the children with remote and supervised learning.

During February we will continue to use both paper packs and Seesaw to provide remote learning for all children. P6 and P7 children will also continue to participate in online Zoom lessons and 'Fitness with Kevie', via Zoom, will be open to all children every Thursday morning @9am.

Our second paper packs were collected from school last Friday. The children should continue to complete their tasks, as outlined in our weekly overviews and post their work on Seesaw for our teachers to mark and respond to. It is very important that the children regularly post their work on Seesaw. Teachers will send messages on Seesaw to remind children to post their work if this has not been done for a few days or they may phone home if they are concerned about a child's engagement with remote learning. Work will also be posted each week on Mathematics and Nassy. Thankfully the vast majority of our children are doing all of their work and we thank all parents for their support and cooperation with this important element of remote learning.

We do appreciate that remote learning/home schooling is very challenging for everyone. All planned learning activities are specific to the children's learning needs and should not take a great amount of time to complete; some days it will take longer than others. Do your best to support your child(ren) with their learning but don't put yourself under pressure. Contact their teacher if you have any queries or concerns. Please find teacher's email addresses below. Teachers have been advised to only respond to parents during normal school hours.

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

Last year during the first Lockdown we posted regular 'Home Schooling' galleries on our website which were a great way of keeping our school community connected. We would like to post one 'Home Schooling' gallery before the mid-term break (15-19th February). This could be your child(ren) playing in the snow, out for a walk, baking, painting or completing their school work at the table. It would be great if every family could email one

photo to Mrs Mc Cloy (amccloy737@c2kni.net) before Friday 5th February and the gallery will be uploaded on our website on Wednesday 10th February.

This week, 1st – 5th February Reception/Primary One – Primary Five teachers will post short videos praising all of the children for their excellent work. Next week, 8th – 12th February, all teachers will call parents to discuss how each child is responding to remote learning and also to report how they progressed during term one. School will then close for mid-term break from Monday 15th – Friday 19th February. There will be no remote or supervised learning provided during our mid-term break.

As the Minister of Education has now announced that schools will not reopen until Monday 8th March, we will continue to provide remote and supervised learning after the mid-term break. A third two week paper pack will be ready for parents to collect on Monday 22nd February, arrangements for collection will be posted on our website closer to the date, and we will continue with remote learning as outlined above.

Supervised Learning will continue to 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. 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 we will return to face to face teaching in March although if we don't we will continue to work together to support our whole school community, especially our children to the best of our ability. 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.