

2 January 2021

Dear parents

Happy New Year!

I am sure you have heard the announcement in the media from Peter Weir that schools are to move to remote learning for next week, due to the rapid increase in cases. At the moment plans are for primary schools to return to face to face teaching on Monday 11 January.

Like you, we also heard via the media, detail has only just begun to be released directly to schools. I will endeavour to keep you updated as the situation unfolds. I have provided some information on our plans this far.

The first day of term for pupils has changed to **Thursday 7 January** (except P7 for whom remote learning will begin on Wednesday 6 January). Following DENI/EA guidance we shall be taking Wednesday 6 January as a staff planning day.

### **Work packs**

We will provide work packs for pupils which can be collected as follows:

<b>Class</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Where</b>
P7	Tuesday 5 January	12.30 – 2.00 pm	KS2 outer door
All other classes	Wednesday 6 January	12.30 – 2.00 pm	Outer doors of respective classes

These work packs will provide materials for the 2 days next week. In addition, we will supply contingency resources for a further week, should a decision be made to extend the remote learning period.

### **Key Workers & Vulnerable Children**

In school supervision will be provided for pupils of key workers and vulnerable children from Thursday 7 January. Definitions of these categories are enclosed at the end. Please note this supervised learning will most likely be in a mixed age group, facilitated by classroom assistants and teachers on a rota.

EA transport is available for pupils in the Social Communication Units.

If you wish to make an application for a placement for your child, please complete the Google Form at the following link by **6.00 pm on Sunday 3 January**:

<https://forms.gle/766e5yyPcu1Ekmwp8>

### **P7 Pupils**

Remote learning begins Wednesday 6 January for P7 pupils. Miss Martin will be in touch via Dojo with details.

Our education minister has made it very clear that we are unable to bring our P7 class into school. Whilst we would have liked to support the pupils face to face, we

understand the danger of transmission of the virus preventing the pupils from being able to sit their AQE exams. We appreciate that the first AQE test is this Saturday and we will do our utmost to support our P7 pupils and their parents as best we can.

We are very grateful to have managed to negotiate term 1 with no positive cases in school, however I believe the situation we now find ourselves in is different. I was firmly of the belief last term that the best place for our pupils was in class, keeping life as normal as possible. With the massive increase in transmission since Christmas, I think the safest place for everyone is at home for now. No doubt we will continue to be informed of forthcoming decisions via the media, but we will be in touch with you all via Seesaw (SCU) and Class Dojo (mainstream) as more information is released.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Preston". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "B".

Barbara Preston  
Principal

## Definitions of Vulnerable Children and 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/consultationcross-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 Covid19 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.