



St Dallan's Primary School

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

In response to the new announcements made by the Minister of Education, I wish to outline for you our plans for the provision of education in St. Dallan's Primary School from next week.

As many of you will be aware, it has been announced that due to high rates of Covid 19, primary school children will be learning remotely until Monday 11 January. Following the Minister's directive Thursday 7 January will now be used for teachers' planning, therefore, we will be using our platforms of Seesaw and Google Classroom to provide remote learning for the children on Friday 8 January 2021. We as a school are confident with the blended learning provision we have put in place, which has been tried and tested, and we are all here to support you and our children.

The school office and building will reopen on Tuesday 5 January and all staff will return on Thursday 7 January as originally planned and at the moment face to face learning will hopefully resume on Monday 11 January.

The Department has stated that all children who qualify as children of key workers or classifies as vulnerable may apply to come to school for "supervised learning" doing the same activities as the children who are at home. I have attached the Department's definition of this at the end as an appendix for your information.

If you feel you require key worker/vulnerable child provision for next Thursday and Friday as you have no other safe alternative, please complete the required form which will be sent to you by email and return it to the school info@stdallans.warrenpoint.ni.sch.uk or alternatively contact the school office for a hard copy.

It is currently my understanding that school meals will not be available next week, however if this changes I will notify you immediately. Therefore, any pupils who secure a place in school for supervised learning will:

- Observe normal school hours, **(please note the revised dismissal times communicated in December)**
- Wear their school uniform
- Bring a packed lunch

None of the above is of course ideal but with the continued support and cooperation of all our school community we will be able to continue to adapt to this ever changing situation. If anyone needs any further clarification or assistance, please contact the school office. I would like to thank you all for your continued support and understanding in these difficult times.

Regards

Una Farrell
Principal

APPENDIX

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.

