



4th January 2021

Dear Parent/s,

I hope that you and your family are well and that you all have had an enjoyable Christmas break. Also, I wish you all a happy and peaceful new year!

Due to the ongoing increase in positive COVID-19 cases throughout the North, the Minister for Education, Peter Weir, has issued a letter to schools detailing revised arrangements for the reopening of school following the Christmas holidays.

This week primary schools will move to remote learning and will not reopen for face to face teaching for all pupils until Monday 11th January.

As you are already aware the children were due to return to school on **Thursday 7th January.** This day will now be used to allow staff time to organise for remote learning. No pupils should attend school on this day. Online teaching and learning activities will be available for all pupils via Seesaw on **Friday 8th January.**

Peter Weir has also asked schools to provide supervision for children of key workers and vulnerable children. As the PHA and DE guidance is for children to stay at home, this provision is for parents who have exhausted all other options for childcare.

St. John's will be open on **Friday 8th January** to accommodate supervision for children of key workers and vulnerable children. (Please refer to the information below regarding criteria for vulnerable children and children of key workers.)

If your child/children meet the criteria below for a vulnerable child/children or you meet the criteria for a key worker and you have exhausted all options for childcare for Friday 8th January, I would be grateful if you could complete the form via the following link below **by 3.00pm on Tuesday 5th January.** This is essential so we can establish the level of interest and organise appropriate supervision. Please note a form must be submitted for each child in a family.

FORM LINK

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-yeCOETeDkaBkAVAK4mNqPwE1AdJr8tIu-n77Bq30FBUQVhYRDJSNTJRT0IDTzU4SVU0MU1RSEZRWi4u>

Your understanding and co-operation are very much appreciated at this challenging time.

Kind regards,

Louise McKnight

Appendix A - 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 Covid19 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.

Appendix B Definition of Vulnerable Children:

- 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.