

New Row Primary School
43 New Row
Castledawson
BT45 8AP

028 7946 8426



Principal:
Mrs. D Graffin
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6th January 2021

Dear parent or carer

As we begin another year my thoughts are with you all and hope you are keeping safe and well. Like everyone, we are concerned about the new variant of COVID and the speed with which it appears to be transferring. We all share the desire to protect our families, loved ones and everyone in the community.

Remote learning Thurs 7th & Fri 8th January

Teachers will post up a short message and tasks tomorrow (Thursday). There will be one Literacy, one Numeracy and one other activity to complete. This will be the same on Friday. Activities should be completed in the exercise books already at home. There will be no need to print out any materials. Contact the office in the morning if you have any issues accessing the work on Seesaw – this is important.

Supervision of learning for Thurs & Fri will take place in your child's normal classroom. This will *not* be the case from Monday. Only those who have pre-registered for this care should attend.

Remote Learning from Mon 11th January

Packs will be given out from the canteen steps on Monday morning from 8.45am – 10.30am. These times are intended to assist with social distancing. Come at the time that suits best and remember your mask.

8.45	9.00	9.15	9.30	9.45	10	10.15
Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7

Staff have spent a lot of time planning and reviewing our approaches. We know that this is a very stressful time at home. The emphasis will be on going over what they know while introducing *some* new learning. Every day your child will be asked to complete a literacy, numeracy and topic activity. They will also be directed on what to read. Extension activities will be suggested with on obligation to complete. Our email service to return work was very busy and children loved to get feedback from their teachers. We are also going to use Seesaw as a form of sending feedback. Information & instructions to follow.

Supervised learning for essential childcare cover of vulnerable children and children of key workers

We have a limited capacity to help support the childcare for children of key workers & vulnerable children. We are very keen to help families -as always – but are aware that this is not as straightforward as some (in positions of authority) would have you believe. Already we have both teaching and support staff unavailable due to illness and self-isolation. *By only using this service if **essential**, we can reduce the number of contacts we have with other people over the coming days and lower the risk of spreading the virus and protecting the vulnerable in our community.* Otherwise, it defeats the purpose of school closure. Please read the additional information overleaf and in this link before considering an application. <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/general-guidance-covid-19-schools>

Transfer test

We are all thinking of the Y7 pupils who have been working so hard preparing for their Transfer Test at the end of January which has now been cancelled. I'm sorry that this news has come so late in the day.

Many thanks for your continued support and every wish for safety and health during these worrying times. Remember – this will pass.

Mrs Deirdre Graffin

Principal

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Supervised learning for essential childcare cover of vulnerable children and children of key workers

In considering an application for provision, it is important to pay attention to the following points (adapted from <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/general-guidance-covid-19-schools>)

- Following the most recent announcement, schools are closed – there is no daily teaching.
- This is not school as we know it – it is supervision of children.
- It is not an opportunity to continue sending your child to school.
- It has been introduced to try and keep everyone safe – children, staff, parents and the wider community.
- If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
- If a child is *vulnerable* or has a parent who is a *critical worker* then education provision will be available for them.

What will supervised learning look like?

- There will be no formal lessons that those at home would miss.
- Pupils will be given time to complete the same tasks as those at home.
- Teaching staff onsite will be working on planning and monitoring remote learning tasks
- Children who use this service need to be able to work independently, respect social distancing & adhere to all other PHA guidelines. If they can do this, then they will not pose a risk to themselves and others. If this becomes an issue, we will have to talk to the parent about continuing the provision.

Some organisational considerations:

- Supervised learning will run from 9am - 2pm daily. They can arrive from 8.45am.
- Children should enter and exit through the back gate
- We are using the mobile classes for this facility so children may not be in their own classrooms.
- The directive is that staff should work from home where possible. As they have remote teaching responsibilities, staff will supervise on a rota basis. Therefore, your child's class teacher or other known adults will not be in their supervision room every day.
- As the kitchen is not operational, children should bring a break, packed lunch and drink.
- Pupils wear full uniform.
- Children will be organised in bubbles by family or class depending on numbers.
- Arrangements may change at short notice due to staff availability or unforeseen circumstances.
- If we all make responsible choices, then demand for places will not exceed our capacity to help.

We need to limit the number of children who access this service. Only by doing this can we reduce the number of contacts we have with other people and keep our entire community safe.

In order for our school to ascertain the level of need, please complete the relevant provision survey link (which will be texted to all parents shortly) by 12 noon on Friday 8th January. Direct any queries to info@newrowps.castledawson.ni.sch.uk.

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Definitions: vulnerable children and key workers Taken from DENI advice, 31 Dec 20

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>)

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. A child who is receiving support from, or has been referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
4. 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.
5. A child who is 'on-the-edge' of receiving support from children's social services.
6. A child who is in need, including in need of protection, but whose need is not known to statutory services.
7. 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.
8. A young person who was previously a looked after child, whether or not they are receiving support from statutory services.
9. A child who has been placed for adoption.
10. Asylum seeking and refugee children and children whose parents have no recourse to public funds.

Key workers are defined as:

1. 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;
2. 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;
3. 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;
4. Transport. This will include those keeping air, water, road and rail transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response;
5. 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;
6. 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);
7. 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.);
8. 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;
9. Other workers essential to delivering key public services such as the National Crime Agency; and
10. Key national and local government including those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response.