



St Joseph's Primary School

Carnacaville

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Principal: Mr Christopher McCann Bsc(Hons), PGCE, PQH(NI)

6th January 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians

Unfortunately following on from the announcement yesterday from the Minister of Education, we now find ourselves back in a position similar to last March. I can assure you, all the staff within the school are as disappointed as you are in being forced to follow this path. Nothing compares to face to face teaching each day.

From Monday 11th January to at least Friday 12th February the Minister for Education has closed all schools. This now includes our Reception Class. We will move to a period of remote learning for the children. He has taken PHA and medical advice and deemed that the safest place for children to be at this time is at home.

Staff today, have been planning and preparing initial online learning activities which will be available tomorrow morning on Seesaw or Google Classroom. All our pupils and parents are very familiar with connecting to these platforms.

A Learning pack of activities will be made available as soon as possible and can be collected from the school early next week. I will contact you with an allocated time to attend school and collect the packs. These packs will cover blocks of two weeks at a time until this period of lockdown is finished.

To complement the printed activities your child's teacher will provide online activities and will interact with pupils regularly through the class online platform. This will take the form of written comms, audio recordings and Google Meet Sessions.

Vulnerable Children and the Children of Key Workers.

The following applies from Monday 11th January

- The latest guidance states *A child of a key worker is a child for whom one parent is a key worker, with no other safe childcare alternative.*
- **It is imperative that you only consider sending your child to school as an absolute last resort, where there is no other alternative childcare available.** Home is currently the safest place for your child.
- It is also important to note that children who attend school will be, "in the school building for 'supervised learning'".
- Parents should be clear that this is not face-to-face teaching; this is being supervised in the school building, doing the same activities as the children who are at home.
- Pupils who attend school will not be in their usual class bubbles as these now have to be collapsed and will be in a classroom with pupils from the same key stage (P1 –P3) & (P4 – P7) supervised by a teacher and a classroom assistant.
- Pupils will remain socially distant from each other while in school.



- Key worker children attending school must wear their school uniform and bring a snack, water and a packed lunch.
 - No meals will be available in school until further notice.
 - Breakfast Club is under review and further details will follow.
 - Supervision will begin at 9:00am -2:00pm (P1-P3) & 9:00am to 3:00pm (P4-P7)
 - All pupils to enter and leave the building through the main entrance.
 - Parents must maintain social distancing while on school grounds and will not be given access to the building.
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- Applications for school supervision need to be **made on a weekly basis** to allow me to plan appropriate staffing levels.
 - If you wish your child to avail of the supervision for week beginning 11th January, **you must complete the attached booking form and email the school on cmccann872@c2kni.net no later than 1:00pm on Friday 8th January**

Please do not arrive unannounced on the morning supervision is required as I cannot guarantee cover for your child.

Thank you all for your continued support and understanding in these difficult times.

Best Regards,
Christopher McCann
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.