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31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

## **Ref: School Re-opening in January 2021 - Updated Advice**

Dear Parents,

I hope that you and your family had a lovely Christmas break.

This morning the Education Minister issued revised guidance in relation to the opening of schools in the New Year. Mr Peter Weir has indicated that Primary School pupils will be taught remotely until 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021, after which they will return to the classroom.

As Windmill is currently closed for the Christmas break, remote learning for our Primary 1 to Primary 7 pupils will commence on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021**. Children **MUST** log in and access their class Seesaw/Google classroom, undertake the activities set and share them on Seesaw/Google classroom on a daily basis with their class teacher. Doing this will also mean that their attendance record will not be affected.

**Our Nursery will open on Wednesday 6th January 2021.**

The recent medical advice on how to reduce the risk of and limit the spread of Covid-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

As indicated by the Minister for Education, Mr Peter Weir, 'schools will accommodate vulnerable children and the children of key workers from the start of term.'

**Teaching and Non-Teaching staff will be spending Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 planning small group work in the Nursery and remote learning for the Primary 1 to Primary 7 pupils.**

**No pupils to attend school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020.**

Windmill Integrated Primary School is a Company Limited by Guarantee (Co. Reg. No. XN85570) and is recognised as a Charity by the Inland Revenue (Ref. XO72688DCM)

Windmill Integrated Primary School will be available to cater for **vulnerable children and the children of Key workers** from **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020**. The definition of vulnerable children and key staff can be found at <https://education-ni.gov.uk/general-guidance-covid-19-schools>

It is vitally important that we are aware how many children ('vulnerable' children and children of keyworkers) will be attending school next week from **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021**. School starting and finishing times remain the same.

To safeguard children who must attend this facility and the staff who will look after them, I appeal to parents to **request a place for their child only if it is absolutely essential and only for the period of time that supervision is needed**.

**May I take this opportunity to reiterate that school must be the last resort.**

If you are a key worker and/or a parent/guardian of a vulnerable child and you require supervision for your child from **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021**, you **MUST** complete the **Covid-19 Key Workers Form** which can be found within the Forms section of the Windmillips App.

To access the 'Covid-19 Keyworkers Form': Go to the Windmillips App, Scroll down to Forms, Click on Forms and then scroll down to Covid-19 Key Workers Form.

All forms must be completed and submitted via the school app by **11.00am on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021**.

Please be advised that Windmill will not be able to operate a 'normal' school day for our Primary 1 to Primary 7 pupils. It is important to stress that children will be supervised by a classroom assistant and will not receive face to face teaching when in school, as teachers will be providing the online/remote learning.

Remember:

**DO NOT** send your child to school if:

- He/She is unwell
- Any member of your family is unwell

**\*Social distancing and good hygiene are VITAL to preventing the spread of Covid-19.**

**I am still awaiting advice from the Educational Authority regarding school meal provision for next week.**

Unfortunately Covid-19 cases continue to rise in Northern Ireland. May I encourage you all to adhere strictly to the current PHA guidance in order to keep you and your loved ones safe.

On behalf of all the staff at Windmill Integrated Primary School and Nursery Unit, I would like to wish you all a very Happy and Safe New Year.

Yours sincerely

Sandra Ferguson  
Principal