



Coagh Primary School

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Letter to all Parents (1st January 2021)

Dear Parent,

We as a school would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Happy New Year and we all hope that 2021 will be better in many ways than 2020. The purpose of this letter is to outline what will be happening in Coagh Primary School over the next week (possibly further) following Peter Weir's announcement yesterday. Please take a few minutes to read it carefully.

Start of Term

We were due to open for all pupils on Tuesday 5th January. This has now changed and the majority of our pupils will return to school on Monday 11th January. This might change depending on advice from the Department of Education and the Education Minister but currently we will work on the assumption that school will return on Monday 11th January.



Remote Learning

As a school we have been incorporating 'Seesaw' into school in a variety of ways with the intention of using 'Seesaw' as our method of remote learning in the eventuality of classes needing to self-isolate or that schools might have to close for a period of time. All pupils have been given the appropriate login details for both 'Seesaw Family' (Primarily used for parents to see messages etc. from school) and 'Seesaw Class' (The App used by your child to access and upload work). If you do not have these Apps already installed on your smartphone, tablet, laptop or desktop please email your child's class teacher and we will send out the necessary usernames and passwords.



Remote learning will begin for all pupils P1-P7 on Wednesday 6th January 2021 and will continue until school is fully opened for all pupils. Teachers will upload the lessons for each day and they will become 'live' from 9am. Pupils can log into 'Seesaw Class' and they will see the 'Activities' allocated to them for that day. Each activity should be completed in whichever format is requested in the activity (For most activities it will be completed in a book) and then please take a 'clear' photograph of the work (Ideally in portrait mode) and upload to the activity. Your child's teacher will then be able to mark the work and provide feedback during 'normal' teaching hours 9am – 3.30pm. We appreciate that some pupils will not be able to upload the work during these hours due to family circumstances i.e. working hours of parents



etc. In these cases, please upload the work when it is completed and the teacher will mark that work the next day and provide feedback.

Teaching staff will be preparing for remote learning on Tuesday 5th January and for some classes there might be a 'work pack' to accompany the activity on Seesaw. If this is the case your child's class teacher will inform you and these packs can be collected from school on Wednesday 6th January (The idea behind the work pack is that you won't need to print sheets etc. but all work should still be uploaded to Seesaw for marking and feedback from your child's teacher).

Key Worker and Vulnerable Children

Peter Weir announced that provision will be made in school to accommodate those children of Key Workers and those identified as vulnerable. School will be open from **9am – 3pm (There will be no 'Fun Club' or 'Homework Club')** each day for Key Worker and Vulnerable Children beginning on Tuesday 5th January. It should be noted that Teaching staff will not be working with Key Worker or vulnerable children as they will be providing remote learning for the whole class. Those children of Key Workers or vulnerable children will be supervised in their individual class bubbles by a Classroom Assistant.

A definition of what a 'Key Worker' is can be found on the Department of Education Website or by accessing the following link www.education-ni.gov.uk/news/weir-announces-changes-schools-reopening-arrangements

If you feel that you are a Key Worker or your child is classified as Vulnerable and need provision please email me ibayne452@c2kni.net (Before Monday 4th January) with the days that you need your child(ren) to be supervised in school. This should be completed on a weekly basis if school does not reopen on Monday 11th January.

At this time, it should be stressed that the safest place according to medical advice is to 'stay and work from home' but we understand and respect that each family circumstance is different.

All pupils of Key Workers and those Vulnerable children should **wear full school uniform** each day they attend school.

School Dinners

At present there has been no provision made by the Department of Education to provide those pupils in school with School Dinners. Those pupils entitled to Free School Meal provision will receive the relevant payments directly from the Education Authority. Any pupil attending school as a Key Worker or Vulnerable child should bring a break and packed lunch which will be eaten in their class bubble.

Contacting the school

Communication with school continues to be vitally important in this climate and if you have any concerns about what you should do in certain situations please either ring the school office or email me directly at ibayne452@c2kni.net during out of school hours and we will respond as quickly as possible to your concern.



Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "I. Bayne".

Mr I. Bayne

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