



St. Colman's Primary School  
and  
All Saints' Nursery Unit  
(Annaclone)

24 Monteith Road,  
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*Progress Through Partnership, Leading To Excellence*



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Saturday 02 January 2021

Dear Parents,

We hope this correspondence finds you all well and on behalf of our staff and governors we wish you all a prosperous and healthy New Year. I trust you have all had a relaxing break and continue to keep well. On the morning of 31st December 2020 the Minister for Education issued a statement altering the approach to reopening schools in early January 2021. This is not how any of us would have wanted the new term to begin, but thankfully, at the minute, it is only a one week delayed start. The alarmingly high transmission and death rates across the island has meant that officials had to act in order to limit the spread and to protect school communities across the north.

Currently Mr Weir says that **Primary schools** will resume face to face teaching from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2021. Remote learning will be provided for the first days of term. Our school was due to commence Term 2 on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of January. *However*, updated EA guidance says that the existing first day of the school term must now be used for planning, resourcing and preparatory purposes. This is to produce and enable the online work that will be provided on our school platforms for pupils to complete on both Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday 8<sup>th</sup>. This date (Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>) will also be used by staff to prepare hard copy packs of pupil work should schools' not re-open as is planned on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> of January.

The minister has also indicated that **Nursery Schools and Units** are to remain open. The guidance for Nursery Units also states that the planned first day of school term should also be used for the purpose of preparation. Nursery will open on **Thursday 7th January 2021**.

Even though the school is closed for face to face teaching next week, the school is available for the supervised learning of Key workers' children and vulnerable children, if they require it. If you are a key worker or your child falls into the vulnerable category and need the school to provide supervised learning, please complete the application form below and email to me at [koneill344@c2kni.net](mailto:koneill344@c2kni.net) by 1 pm on Tuesday 5th January. I will need Tuesday and Wednesday to make arrangements and will send out an app message on Wednesday afternoon, please look out for this.



The decision to delay a full return to school is due to the huge increase of virus transmission recorded the past few days. When we do return to school it is vitally important that parents and pupils continue to follow the guidelines set in place to try and make our school as safe an environment as possible. We will remind parents and pupils of our operating procedures when we make our scheduled full return on the 11th of January.

I conclude by wishing you and your families every blessing for 2021. We survived a tumultuous 2020 together and I fully anticipate that 2021 will offer a few bumps also. With your support and willingness to work with us we will all continue to do the best for our children.

Yours in partnership,

Mr O'Neill

Principal



## Appendix 1

### Term 2b Restart Summary

1. Nursery will open on Thursday 7th January 2021.
2. Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January will now be used as a preparation day for NU-P7 staff. Please also check on this date that your passwords and access to See-Saw, Google Classroom and all of our online platforms are working. If not please email [amorgan628@c2kni.net](mailto:amorgan628@c2kni.net) and we will seek to address issues arising.
3. P1-P7 will be taught remotely from Thursday 7th-Friday 8th January.
4. Guidance dated 01/01/21 says face to face teaching will resume for children on Monday 11th January 2021 (this is subject to DE review, as the situation develops).
5. School will be open for supervision of key worker and vulnerable children (see appendix two/three for definitions). Given the high transmission figures please consider carefully your requirement for the use of this facility. If you wish to make use of this facility please email myself by Tuesday 5th January, confirming the names of your child/ren and the days required. This facility will be available between 8:45am-1:45pm Thursday-Friday.
6. We expect to know Monday 4<sup>TH</sup> January the full extent of available EA services (transport/catering) available on both Thursday/Friday of next week,

## Appendix 2

### Department of Education Definition of a Key Worker (Jan 21)

- **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 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.**



### Appendix 3

#### Department of Education Definition of a Vulnerable Child (Jan 21)

The definition of Vulnerable Children as set out in the cross-departmental Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan 2020 is:

- **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.**

**St Colman's Primary School and All Saints' Nursery Unit**

**Application for 'Supervised Learning' provision for Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

Please email your response to koneill344@c2kni.net by 1pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

**Name of child/ren and classes:**

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**Key worker roles:**

Please indicate if you are a single parent: Yes/No

**Parent 1**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Key worker Role:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place of work:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent 2**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Key worker Role:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place of work:** \_\_\_\_\_

**If your application is for a 'vulnerable child' please provide details.**

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I will process this ASAP and will provide detail re arrangements on the school app on Wednesday afternoon.

Thank you,  
Mr O'Neill.

