



Dungannon Primary School



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16th March 2020

Dear Parent

Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

You may be aware from local media over the weekend that the First Minister, Mrs Foster, indicated that Northern Ireland schools could close for a period of 16 weeks. Schools remain open for now but there is clearly a growing sense from various government sources that school closures across the UK are very likely at some point in the future. At Dungannon Primary School we will continue to prepare for this eventuality, both by providing books and other materials to pupils and placing study materials online. To assist teachers with this preparation **school will remain closed to pupils on Wednesday 18th March 2020**. This day will be recorded as an exceptional closure and will replace the planned exceptional closure due to take place on Tuesday 26th May 2020.

SCHOOL TRIPS AND EVENTS

In the interest of protecting pupils and staff we have decided to **CANCEL ALL SCHOOL TRIPS AND EVENTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**. This includes our production of **The Lion King** which was due to take place at the end of March. Full refunds will be issued to those families who have already purchased tickets. **The P6/7 trip to Shannaghmore Outdoor Residential Centre** in May 2020 has also been cancelled. Again, full refunds will be issued to all who planned to attend this residential. In addition to protecting pupils and staff, this measure is also intended to help protect family members, especially those more vulnerable to COVID-19, and to maximise teaching time in lessons during the remaining days ahead.

PLEASE NOTE ALL AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

We have been informed by the Clergy of St. Patrick's Church, Dungannon that both Confirmation, planned to take place on Sunday 3rd May 2020 and First Holy Communion, planned to take place on Saturday 16th May 2020 are currently under review. Further advice will be issued to parents shortly.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD IS DISPLAYING CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS

If your child has a high temperature (37.8° or above), and/or a new persistent cough, the advice is to self-isolate your child for 7 days. You should **NOT** go to a GP Surgery, Pharmacy or hospital. Call your GP if you feel you cannot cope with your child's symptoms at home; their condition gets worse or if their symptoms do not get better after 7 days. For further information and self-isolation advice, visit www.pha.site/coronavirus



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PREVENTION MEASURES AT DUNGANNON PRIMARY SCHOOL

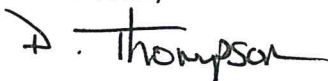
I would like to reassure all parents that Dungannon Primary School is taking all reasonable precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Mr Gallagher and his team of Cleaners have increased their normal cleaning routines, computers and equipment are cleaned daily, and our pupils are being directed to wash their hands often and to use tissues when required. We have talked at length to the children in Assembly and in class about the importance of strict hand hygiene.

PUPILS IN RECEIPT OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS

A number of our children are in receipt of free school meals. If our school is forced to close, we will work hard to ensure our pupils' needs are catered for. We have planned to provide a Food Bank which will provide enough food for one main meal per day for any child currently on our Free School Meals Register. The Food Bank will open each Monday at 11:00am – 12:00 noon and parents will be issued with food parcels to cater for 5 meals. **Please note – the Food Bank will only operate if School has been forced to close.**

The impact of COVID-19 continues to grow and we have no doubt that the seriousness of the situation will escalate in the days and weeks ahead. We will endeavour to keep pupils, staff and parents informed of developments in school and the responses we will be able to make as time goes on. It is important that we continue to work together and support one another through this challenging time. I will, of course, provide further updates when new information is issued by Government, Education Authority and/or Department of Education.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Thompson
PRINCIPAL



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