



# Dungannon Primary School



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18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent

## Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Each day we receive updated advice from Government about how to deal with the Coronavirus pandemic effectively. You will have heard in the news yesterday that our Universities have now closed and students will be required to continue their studies via online platforms. All our main churches have cancelled Sunday services and weekly events until further notice.

Government advises that individuals need to take seriously the notion of social distancing. Social distancing is where people are positioned at least two metres apart. Currently we have 279 pupils attending Dungannon Primary School and over 40 members of staff. As Principal, I have no confidence that I can successfully ensure all individuals remain at least two metres apart when attending school. Ultimately, I do not have the confidence that I am catering for the Health and Well-being of pupils and staff. **AS A RESULT, I HAVE DECIDED TO KEEP SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS ON THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> AND FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020.**

During Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March Teachers will be holding parent information sessions about our on-line learning platform and to provide parents with an update on our position in relation to Coronavirus. Materials will also be distributed to parents to support their child and their learning. We are limiting the number of places to six parents per session. Please go to the school app and book your preferred time. This will be on a first come, first served basis. **Parents are reminded NOT to bring their child to this information session.** If you have more than one child attending school, it is necessary for you to attend one information session only.

I am hopeful that Government and/or Stormont will provide schools with a date as to when schools will be forced to close. I will provide an update when further information has been made available. If school is to open to pupils on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, I would ask you to consider carefully the Health and Well-being of your child and have consideration for the Health and Well-being of my staff. A number of parents have already informed me that they intend to keep their children at home until this pandemic is over.

**Please note that Day Care is closed until further notice.** March invoices will be issued within the coming days. We would appreciate swift payment as staff salaries are now due.



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Primary School of  
The Year 2018

I want to assure you that I view Dungannon Primary School as one large family. We are a group of friends who look out for, and care for each other. During this difficult time, it is important that we continue to be a family, to look after and care for each other. As we become more 'socially isolated' (to use that dreadful phrase), send a little text message, an email or make a phone call to each other so that we can encourage one another and build one another up.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. I look forward to meeting you at our Teacher information sessions on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> or Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Thompson  
**PRINCIPAL**



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