



171, Newtownsaville Road,
Eskra,
Omagh,
Co Tyrone.
BT78 2RJ

Phone: 028 82 841067

Fax: 028 82 841067

email: info@stpatrickseskra.omagh.ni.sch.uk

www.stpatrickspseskra.co.uk

Principal: Mrs. Keira McCallan BA (Hons), PQH

Saturday, 7th November, 2020.

Dear Parent,

Please read the following notes carefully:

- As you may be aware, a member of staff from Playtime has tested positive for COVID-19. This has implications for our school as some pupils attend the Breakfast Club and the After-Schools Club.

Our relationship with Playtime is very important to our community. Yesterday morning, we worked with them to make the best decision for the children in our care and for our school staff. Time was against us, so we had to be cautious until Playtime were able to establish close contacts and we had sought further advice. As a school, it is important to err on the side of caution, as we try, in very challenging circumstances to keep our community safe. Following the positive result, we know that we made the correct decision. The safety of our pupils and staff must take absolute priority at all times. Thank you most sincerely for supporting the school yesterday and for your communication throughout the day.

As a school, we follow PHA guidance when making decisions regarding COVID-19 procedures. Unfortunately, some of the information provided to schools has conflicting messages and I'm sure you can appreciate that we were unable to inform you of our arrangements for next week until we had received direct confirmation from PHA.

PHA has advised that any pupils in close contact with the member of staff from Playtime **must not** attend school for **14 days** and **must self-isolate**. If you are unsure whether this affects your child, please contact Playtime and they will be happy to advise.

PHA has also advised that siblings of those pupils who have been in close contact with the confirmed case (and who must self-isolate for 14 days) are able to attend school from Monday, as long as they are not displaying any COVID – 19 symptoms. For the safety of our pupils and staff, please ensure that self-isolation

‘We learn to love and love to learn.’

guidelines are strictly adhered to in the home. If your child develops symptoms, please contact the school immediately and arrange a test for them. Pupils who display symptoms of COVID -19 **must not** attend school. If in any doubt, please contact myself or Mrs. Mulligan directly.

An electronic form has been sent to your mobile phone today. If your child/children are self-isolating, please submit the form by **5pm** today so that staff can prepare for remote learning. Your child's teacher will be in contact regarding this. Please be aware that teachers are still teaching full-time during the day and preparation of remote learning is an additional duty. If you choose to keep siblings off school too, please inform us of this and remote learning will be provided.

- In the event of a teacher having to self-isolate in the future or be absent from class, substitute teachers may be employed within the school. Please be assured that if this happens substitute teachers will be expected to adhere to all of our COVID-19 procedures.
- **Friends of St Patrick's** are running a raffle to raise money for school funds. The prize is an Apple 10.2 inch I-pad 128 GB very generously sponsored by Taranto Ltd. Further details and entries are via our new Friends of St. Patrick's P.S. Eskra Facebook page. £10 per entry payable by PayPal to stpatrickseskrapa@gmail.com. Enter before **30th November**, winner announced on **5th December**. It is a difficult time to fundraise as we all know so please spread the word, and be in with a chance to win a fabulous early Christmas present. A huge thank you to Taranto on behalf of the PA.
- **Mrs. Mulligan** will be resuming our **School Council Meetings** on **Thursday, 12th November**. These meetings will take place in the outdoor classroom also. Check out our website for further information.
- Please see a note from our **Anti-Bullying Ambassadors** Team's secretary, **Seána Cullinan** -

Anti-Bullying Week takes place from **Monday, 16th November** to **Friday, 20th November**. The theme this year is **United Against Bullying**. Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors Team are holding an **Odd Sock Day** on **Friday, 13th November** to raise money for school resources to promote anti-bullying. The team are asking parents to donate **£1** per child or **£2** per family towards their funds.

- Please note that there won't be an additional Monday Note on 9th November.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,
Keira McCallan
Mrs. Keira McCallan
(Principal)

‘We learn to love and love to learn.’