

St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

10 Whites Road, Cabragh, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, BT70 3AN

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Acting Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn



1st March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On Thursday 18th February, the NI Executive announced the phased reopening of schools. From the 8th March until 19th March pupils in P1, P2 and P3 will return to full-time face to face teaching. P4-P7 children will continue with Remote Learning at home.

The school will make arrangements to provide supervised learning for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers. **It is essential to remember that due to the return to face to face teaching of P1-3 pupils, the staff we will have available to manage this provision will be drastically reduced.** This provision must only be used if there is NO OTHER provision available to you, as per DE guidance. We fully understand the stress and pressure home learning can place on families but we urge you to help us in what hopefully will be the last major lockdown of schools. We respectfully ask that parents consider every reasonable possibility before making an application.

DE Guidance states that limiting attendance of pupils and staff at school is about reducing the number of contacts that all of us have with people in other households. Therefore, the safest course of action is to keep your child at home.

If you are a Key Worker and meet the criteria or have a vulnerable child and have exhausted all other alternatives for child care provision, the school will make arrangements to provide supervised learning for your children. (8.45 am – 1.30 pm for Foundation Stage children and 8.45 am – 2.45pm for Key Stage 1 and 2 children.) If you would like to apply for a place for your child, I would be grateful if you could complete the survey on the following link. (<https://forms.gle/5gnJ8sS5TDFJHqMZ6>) and **submit before 5pm on Tuesday 2nd March 2021.**

This will help us to plan for the provision of supervised learning for Vulnerable children and children of Key Workers. Following receipt of any requests, I will contact parents to confirm if we can offer your child a place and make further arrangements.

There will be no school based face to face teaching for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers who attend school. The focus will be on supervised learning in school rather than teaching. All vulnerable children and children of key workers attending school will need to bring a healthy snack, a packed lunch (if not taking school dinner), their home learning pack, their pencil case and a warm coat.

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School Meals will be offered to P1-3 pupils and Key Worker/Vulnerable children who are attending school for supervised learning 8th March – 19th March 2021.

Please see below for Government definitions

- Appendix A for definitions of Key workers.
- Appendix B for definitions of Vulnerable Children

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Louise Quinn

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Appendix A

Definition of key workers:

- **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.

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Appendix B

Definition of Vulnerable Children:

- 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.