



**Dromore Road Primary School**

Upper Dromore Road

Warrenpoint

County Down

BT34 3JH

16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent,

As you may be aware, today schools received an email from the Minister of Education advising that schools remain open based on the expert clinical advice provided to him by the Chief Medical Officer, the PHA and the guidance issued by the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies.

In these unprecedented times, we believe that it is important that we keep parents and students fully informed in regard to how we plan to move forward as a school. I fully appreciate that many of you are concerned about the safety of your children and may have vulnerable family members at home that you're worried about. My primary duty of care is for the health and wellbeing of our pupils, staff and parents, and as a school community I ask for your help in working together to help each other through this time of uncertainty.

In light of the advice received today, school will reopen on Wednesday, with some additional safeguards in place:

- We have already raised awareness of Public Health Agency Guidance (PHA) with all staff and pupils (washing hands, use of disposal tissues etc.) and everyone will be encouraged to wash hands at key times during day. Visitor access to the school building will be restricted and signs asking visitors to wash hands will also be displayed on the entrance door.
- The whole school community are asked to read and follow the attached updated advice from PHA.



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**HSC** Public Health  
Agency

## COVID-19 (coronavirus)

If you have a:

- **high temperature**
- and/or
- **new continuous cough**

**Everyone in your household must stay at home for 14 days**

Do **not** go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

You can ring NHS 111 for information or advice and they will help you decide if you need to contact your GP.

Calling your GP directly is only necessary if you have:

- an existing health condition
- problems with your immune system
- very serious symptoms

**If it is a medical emergency and you need to call an ambulance, dial 999 and inform the operator of your symptoms.**

For further information and self-isolation advice, visit [www.pha.site/coronavirus](http://www.pha.site/coronavirus)

V18 General Advice 160320 PHA1.0.10

- Children **must** be kept at home if they are unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature to avoid spreading infection to others. The **self-isolation period** has been updated today to **14 days** for the whole household. Further health related information on COVID-19 can be found on <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus>
- The Minister of Education also acknowledged in his letter to Principals that at some time in the future he will have to close schools. As a school we are taking steps to prepare for this. On Friday a 'home pack' was sent home to help support parents who are either forced to self-isolate or make that decision as a family. We are also working with our website provider to facilitate an online learning option which will enable pupils to study from home. Please ensure you can access our school website [www.dromoreroadps.com](http://www.dromoreroadps.com) and download the app in the next few days. All pupils will also be able to access Mathletics and Lexia at home. Further details and home login detail will be sent home with the children over the next number of days.
- To facilitate staff to prepare online resources, no afterschool clubs, including Burns Football will operate this week. 321 Club will operate as normal.



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May I take this opportunity to thank all in our community for their continuing support and assure everyone that we as a school will do all in our power to support our young people at this difficult time. I recognise that many in our community are experiencing genuine anxieties regarding the developing health situation and it is important that we as a school community do all we can to support them. If you have worries or concerns, please share them. If you need support, please ask. As a school we pride ourselves on being approachable and we will support you in the best way we can. We will also respect parents' decisions in deciding what is best for their child at this time.

Yours faithfully

Sharon McGrath  
(Principal)