



Dromore Road Primary School

Upper Dromore Road
Warrenpoint
County Down
BT34 3JH

15th November 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The confirmation of a case in our school community has saddened us all and our thoughts are with the individual impacted. However, as you can imagine the news has also meant some change and upheaval to life here in Dromore Road. Over the weekend I have been in regular contact with staff reviewing our risk assessment and adopting our procedure to ensure the safe opening of the school tomorrow. I fully recognise and appreciate parents' and pupils' concerns and wish to reassure you that every precaution has been taken.

EA's Cleaning Team was contacted yesterday as part of our risk assessment and advice taken. All rooms and surfaces had already been thoroughly cleaned on Thursday and Friday afternoon, as part of our normal cleaning routine but as a precautionary measure, the school was cleaned again by our Building Supervisor yesterday. We have also sealed off the impacted classroom and EA's Response Team have been organised for enhanced cleaning in the affected classroom.

The pupils and staff that are affected have been notified and asked to self-isolate. This is a precautionary measure and no other members of the school community are currently showing symptoms. As identified close contacts, pupils and staff must follow government guidance and remain at home for the 14 days and must not attend school. Unfortunately, as it is my bubble that has been impacted, I have been advised by PHA to self-isolate too and will be continuing to run and manage the operation of the school from home. Other class teachers have not been identified as close contacts and Mrs English will continue to fulfil her role as safeguarding teacher.

Having a confirmed case has had a significant impact on staffing levels as four staff members work directly with my class and must now self-isolate as recommended by PHA. As a result, we have reviewed our staffing arrangements and I would kindly ask you to note the following:

- Anti-bullying week will run as normal as it is important to keep things as normal as possible for our pupils. Monday 16th is also officially Odd Sock Day and we will mark this in school. To celebrate our uniqueness pupils should wear odd socks with their uniform.
- Unfortunately, due to pupils self-isolating we have decided to cancel the Tempest Photographer session tomorrow. It will be rearranged at a later date, probably in the new year.
- 321 Club will run as normal this week but pupils will be supervised by a different staff member. We will continue to monitor this throughout the week.
- Planned Homework Clubs for Y4/5 and Y6/7 will run this week with some staffing changes.



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- Some P2/3 Reading Partnership sessions will be impacted slightly this week and Mrs McParland will contact those parents directly.
- To ensure there is adequate supervision when arriving and going home, staff have also been deployed to different areas this week. Kindly be punctual for collections, follow social distance guidance and wear a mask if unable to social distance. We would also ask parents to avoid entering the school building to reduce the risk of transmission.
- As a school community, it is vital that we all continue to follow government guidance, practice good hygiene, wash our hands thoroughly and remember to socially distance. Please also remember the importance of not sending your child to school if they display symptoms and to notify the school immediately.

Unfortunately, Covid19 is likely to cause ongoing disruption to school life in the coming months but ensuring the safety of pupils and staff will continue to be my absolute priority and I will continue to monitor the situation carefully and keep you informed.

Kind regards,

S. McGrath
(Principal)