



**Dromore Road Primary School**

Upper Dromore Road  
Warrenpoint  
County Down  
BT34 3JH

6 January 2021

Dear parent,

As you are probably aware from the news yesterday, a return to face to face teaching has been delayed until **after mid-February break** for all schools and instead the Education Minister has asked schools to teach remotely. This is a situation we had hoped would not happen again but, in light of the frightening and rapid rise in Covid19 infection rates, it is necessary for the protection of us all.

As previously outlined, online learning will be delivered via SeeSaw and teachers will be working their usual hours. Pupils should log on **every day** to check the announcements and view the activities. It is important that if completing tasks on paper, the photographic evidence should be uploaded so that the teacher can respond and support with feedback. All staff will try to respond in a timely manner but please be mindful they will also be supervising pupils in school.

To help us record attendance appropriately, we request that evidence is submitted on a daily basis. This does not have to be before 3pm but whenever is appropriate for your home circumstances. Please note that pupils are not expected to complete work if they are sick. However, we would kindly ask you to let your child's teacher know so we can record them as ill in SIMS.

To help make tasks as easily managed as possible, we have decided to prepare paper copy work packs as well as using Seesaw, which can be completed and then uploaded for marking and guidance. Teachers have also collated reading material as we know that it is easier for pupils to have a hard copy. Provision of these packs will be at the teachers' discretion and a text message will be sent when these are available for collection.

Although the reopening of school buildings has been postponed until mid-February, the Executive has asked schools to remain open for a limited number of children. These include:

- children whose parent is a key worker, with no other safe childcare alternative.
- Pupils who may be vulnerable as a result of school being closed.

This provision in school will be in a supervisory capacity and iPads will be provided to allow pupils to access Seesaw. To allow us to be fully prepared, it is essential for us to be aware of how many children of key workers will be attending school next week. With this in mind, if you are an identified key worker and wish to avail of school supervised learning please contact me by email



**Dromore Road Primary School**

Upper Dromore Road  
Warrenpoint  
County Down  
BT34 3JH

[smcgrath554@c2kni.net](mailto:smcgrath554@c2kni.net) by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> at **noon** so that we can organise appropriate staff supervision. Obviously, it goes without saying, if your only option is to send your child to school, we will look after them in order to support you in your important role. A list of definitions is provided for your convenience.

Similarly, if you feel your child is vulnerable as a result of school being closed and may need to avail of school support, even on a part time basis, please let me or your child's teacher know. A list of suggested categories is also attached.

This is certainly not the start to the new term which we had all hoped for, but please be assured, we are working to ensure your children continue to have the best educational experience possible. Teachers will also be in touch later in the week or next week as a pastoral call. This may appear as a private number.

Finally, we want to thank you for your continued support, it is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S. McGrath  
Principal



**Dromore Road Primary School**

Upper Dromore Road  
Warrenpoint  
County Down  
BT34 3JH

1. 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 including youth workers;
- 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.



**Dromore Road Primary School**

Upper Dromore Road  
Warrenpoint  
County Down  
BT34 3JH

## 2. Definition of Vulnerable Children and Young People

- 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; refugee children and children whose parents have no recourse to public funds.