** St. Canice Primary School and Nursery Unit**

**11 Curragh Road**

**Dungiven**

**BT47 4SE**

**Principal:** Mr Ciarán Loane

4 January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you had a happy Christmas and on behalf of our school, I wish you and your family a safe and healthy 2021. Unfortunately, COVID-19 is still influencing our daily life but also our school life.

In an attempt to counteract the increasing rates of coronavirus transmission, the Education Minister Peter Weir has released revised plans for the reopening of schools in January 2021.

* Nursery Units can open as previously planned for the start of Term.

**Our Nursery Unit will therefore open as planned on Thursday 7th January @ 9.15a.m**. Further details will be issued to your child’s Seesaw account later this week.

* All Primary Schools have been directed to teach remotely until and including 8th January.

**Primary Schools will re-open for face to face teaching of all pupils Monday 11thJanuary.** Families whose children are entitled to free school meals will receive a payment from EA for the week beginning 4th January.

Our Y1 – Y7 pupils were due to return to school on Thursday 7th January. This arrangement has changed. **REMOTE LEARNING FOR Y1 – Y7 PUPILS WILL NOW TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY 7TH & FRIDAY 8TH JANUARY.** Y1 - Y7 pupils should use their Seesaw account to access work set by their Class Teacher. Hard copies of work will be available upon request for pupils without internet access. **Please make your request for hard copies via email at** [**cloane443@c2kni.net**](mailto:cloane443@c2kni.net)**by 3p.m. on Tuesday 5th January**.

The school will be open on Thursday 7th January - Friday 8th January for supervised learning. This facility is available to children of key workers or children who are considered vulnerable.

**This is supervised learning, not face to face teaching and pupils will be supervised completing activities that would otherwise be completed at home.**

**IT SHOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED AS A LAST RESORT IF THERE IS NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE, AS WE ARE TRYING TO KEEP OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND WIDER COMMUNITY SAFE.**

Supervision, if needed, will be made available during school hours only.

Y1 & Y2 will finish at 2p.m., while Y3 -Y7 will finish at 3p.m.

School Uniform should be worn.

**In order for us to plan for appropriate levels of supervision, please inform me via email at** [**cloane443@c2kni.net**](mailto:cloane443@c2kni.net)**by 3p.m. on Tuesday 5th January if your child needs to avail of supervised learning in school. Please indicate on your email your child's name, class and parent’s occupation.  We will contact all applications and confirm if we can offer your child a place.**

See below definitions of Key worker and Vulnerable:

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.

Definition of a vulnerable child:

* 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.

Full guidance from the Department of Education can be found here:

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/news/weir-announces-changes-schools-reopening-arrangements>

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Ciarán Loane

Principal