

Wednesday 6th January 2021

Dear Parents,

Following the announcement by the Department of Education schools will now move to online learning for the majority of pupils until the February mid-term break when the situation will be reviewed again.

Primary school pupils will be taught remotely and children have made a great start this week getting logged on and accessing the materials and videos that are available for them.

**Key workers and vulnerable children provision** Schools have been advised to accommodate vulnerable children and the children of key workers from the start of term. Therefore, if your child falls into either category they can return to school as normal. **There will be EA (yellow bus) transport available from Monday 11th January. The school mini bus may operate depending on the results of the survey and the availability of drivers. We will let parents know in due course. (**All children must wear face masks when using home to school transport.)

**The Department has stated children who fall into these categories will be in the school building for ‘supervised learning’. This is not ‘face -to -face teaching,’ rather supervised support in the school building, following the same activities as the children who are at home as much as possible.**

**School Meals**

School Meals service has informed school that children should bring a pack lunch to school as the kitchen will now be closed. Payments will be made in lieu of free school meals to those families entitled to free school meals while normally in school.

Please fill in key worker /vulnerable children application form on the school website or use the link that will be sent out separately. We will be in touch with you on Friday 8th January to confirm your child is able to return on Monday 11th January.

D**epartment of Education Definition of a Key Worker (as per guidance, 31 December 2020)**

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.

**Department of Education Definition of a Vulnerable Child (as per guidance, 31 December 2020)**

The definition of Vulnerable Children as set out in the cross-departmental Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan 2020 is: (https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-cross- departmental-covid-19-vulnerable-children-and-young-peoples-plan)

* 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.

Kindest regards

Helen Cole