

MULLAGLASS PRIMARY SCHOOL

8 Goragh Road
Newry
Co. Down
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Tel. No. 028 30830 229

Thursday 31st December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope everyone enjoyed a safe Christmas. I'm sure everyone is aware of the news that all "primary school pupils will be taught remotely until 11th January, after which they will attend school for face-to-face teaching." This means that all primary schools will be closed the week commencing Monday 4th - Friday 8th January 2021.

Mullaglass Primary School will be closed on Monday 4th January 2021 for all pupils. There will be **no supervision of children or remote learning taking place.** This day has been allocated to schools, from the Department of Education, as a preparation day.

Remote Learning

From Tuesday 5th - Friday 8th January, all learning will take place remotely through Seesaw. Teachers will be making regular contact with their pupils through the Seesaw Class app. We have been using Seesaw throughout the year and more recently from September - December this academic year for homework purposes. Pupils will be set work each day via their class teacher. Pupils can work through the work at a time convenient to them as all living and working circumstances are different. Pupils can send their work back to the class teacher through the app which the teacher will provide feedback on.



Any parent unsure of how to use Seesaw, please contact the school on Monday morning for assistance.

School email addresses of teachers are below so that parents can contact them if they have any questions throughout next week. Teachers may not be able to respond instantly.

P1/2 Miss Best - kbest953@c2kni.net
P3/4 Miss Doyle - cdoyle208@c2kni.net
P5 Mr Greenaway - pgreenaway945@c2kni.net
P6/7 Mrs Weir - aweir157@c2kni.net

AQE

AQE support for P7 pupils can not take place in school. Mr Greenaway and Mrs Weir will be working on arrangements for some support throughout the week on Monday. Further details to follow.

Free School Meals Payment

A payment will be made to parents / guardians of all children entitled to Free School Meals for the week 4th January - Friday 8th January. The payment will be made to your nominated bank account week commencing 11th January.

Online Payments

Any parent who has already paid for dinners and clubs next week, has been credited the amount back into their account.

Supporting Children of Key Workers

The Department of Education also announced today that schools will remain open for vulnerable pupils / children of key workers.

Given the highly alarming transmission rates across the country at present, returning a high amount of pupils to school next week would not achieve the desired reduction in risk that the announcement and move intends. Therefore, I would ask you to seriously reflect on your need for keyworker provision in school next week. During next week I would also ask you to be mindful that it is a challenge for teachers to dually supervise children in school while directing home learning.

I would also stress as was the case in March, that this is not active teaching. The children will be supervised only in their completion of home learning activities that will be provide to all pupils.

Many parents working in the identified key workers list **may** be able to ensure that their child is kept at home.

There is no requirement for identified key worker parents to take up this offer or send their children to school if they do not wish to.

Parent / parents must be defined as Key Workers and only when both parents are working AT THE SAME TIME should their children attend school.

Wrap around services will not be available and school will **only** be open for normal school hours 9am - 2/3pm.

Provision of any level of service will be dependent on staff availability and the school may have to be closed if this becomes a problem.

If you are a key worker and believe that you may need to avail of this reduced provision and believe you are eligible, please contact the school immediately.

Key workers are defined as:

- 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, youth 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.

Schools are being asked to continue to provide supervision for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable.

The term vulnerable encompasses those children who are in need of protection, or in need, as defined by the Children (NI) Order 1995. Children and young people in need may include those:

- 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.

Obviously it goes without saying, if it is necessary to use this service we will look after your children in order to support you in your important role.

With this in mind, I ask that you contact the school, by email pgreenaway945@c2kni.net by **Sunday 3rd January 2021** to inform us if your child will be attending to make essential preparation. Any applications after this may not be considered.

In the email, please include:

- Your eligibility under the key worker definitions
- Name/s of child / ren
- Day/s that you require support
- Hours that you require support

*Please note

- If your child is attending, he/she must be wearing full school uniform.
- The teachers / classroom assistants on duty in school will **supervise** children. Children will work on with their home learning work.
- Normal school hours apply (9am-2pm/3pm)
- Pupil will need to bring a break and a packed lunch to school.

Another difficult start to a new term. Please be assured that I, along with all the staff, are working tirelessly to ensure we continue to keep all the children safe in school and that we are supporting the children both emotionally and academically during these challenging times. Please stay safe and healthy and we will hopefully see all the children back in school on Monday 11th January. I will continue to update parents with any new information.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Greenaway
Principal