

MULLAGLASS PRIMARY SCHOOL



8 Goragh Road
Newry
Co. Down
BT35 6PZ

Tel. No. 028 30830 229
Email pgreenaway945@c2kni.net

Wednesday 6th January 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian

Education Minister Peter Weir MLA has announced that in light of the current crisis in public health, the Northern Ireland Executive has agreed that, effective from Thursday 7th January, it is necessary that all mainstream education providers, including pre-school education settings, primary and post primary schools are required to provide remote learning at home to their pupils rather than face to face teaching in school, until the half term break in the middle of February.

This means that school will be closed for most children until the half term break in February. Remote learning will take the place of face to face teaching.

Collection of Packs

If all parents could collect resource packs from school this **Friday 8th January between 2:00-3:30pm** (please adhere to social distancing rules). Packs are to be collected at the current entrance point of each classroom. Please do not call any earlier as teachers will be in school Friday morning preparing packs for the children. Packs will include spellings, tables, reading books, mental maths, games, worksheets and general resources for example. **To give the teachers much needed time to prepare half-term packs, there will be no work put up on Seesaw on Friday for the pupils.**

If any parent cannot collect the resource pack, please let the school know and we will do our best to get the resource pack to you.

ICT Access

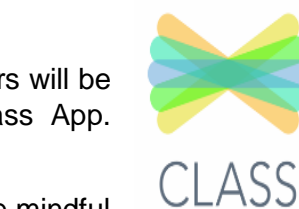
If you are having difficulty accessing enough devices for your children to work on, please let me know and we will try to provide you with an iPad or school laptop. If anyone is finding Seesaw difficult or is a little unsure of how to do something, please let your class teacher know and they will help you. Mrs Whiteside tried to make contact with all families on Monday to see how things are going and if there is any other way we can assist you. Mrs Whiteside reported back such positive feedback from all the parents which was lovely to hear. We will continue to keep in close contact with all families throughout the next five weeks.

Remote Learning

All remote learning will take place remotely through Seesaw. Teachers will be making regular contact with their pupils through the Seesaw Class App. Teachers will be available between the hours of 9:00am – 3:30pm.

You can send work at any time throughout the day however please be mindful that the teacher may not have all work marked instantly.

When using Seesaw – try to remember to click the ‘Add Response’ button for each task so the teacher knows you have completed your work and it is ready for marking.



School email addresses of teachers are below so that parents can contact them if they have any questions throughout this half term. Teachers may not be able to respond immediately. Alternatively, you can contact the teacher through Seesaw with any questions.

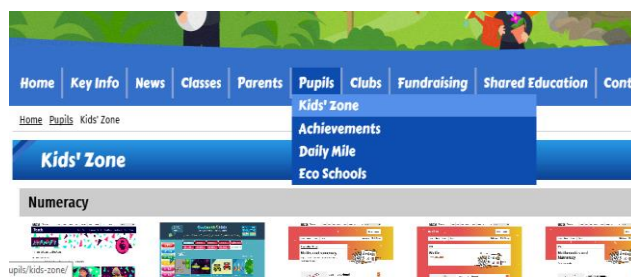
P1/2 Miss Best – kbest953@c2kni.net

P3/4 Miss Doyle – cdoyle208@c2kni.net

P5 Mr Greenaway – pgreenaway945@c2kni.net

P6/7 Mrs Weir – aweir157@c2kni.net

Visit our school website www.mullaglassps.com – Pupils – Kids’ Zone. This will give pupils access to range of useful websites.



AQE

I am so sorry for our AQE children in Mullaglass who have worked so hard from last January to have the test postponed so close to the date of Saturday 9th January. This decision to change to one test at the end of February brings its own pressures for these children. We will continue to provide help and support throughout this half term. You have all worked so hard preparing for these tests and you should all be very proud of your efforts.

Free School Meals

Provision in lieu of free school meals will be made to those children entitled to free school meals while normally in school.

Key Workers

The Department of Education 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 over the half-term 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. 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 Worker definitions are at the end of the document.

Schools are being asked to continue to provide supervision for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable. Children and young people in need are identified at the end of the document.

With this in mind, I ask that you contact the school, by email pgreenaway945@c2kni.net **before 1pm each Friday** 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.
- Must bring learning pack to school

We have loved having all the children back in school for the 1st term. The staff have worked tirelessly to ensure children were first and foremost emotionally secure and secondly received high quality teaching and learning. All the pupils adopted superbly to the new routines in school. We cannot wait to have all the children back in school as the school is not the same without the hustle and bustle in the corridors and laughter in the classrooms.

We want the pupils to continue their great work over the next five weeks. Please do what you can throughout the day and if you don't get something complete – don't worry! You can try and complete it the next day or later in the week.

I would like to thank all the staff who have had to deal with an ever changing picture throughout the term. The effort, dedication and professionalism that all the staff put into Mullaglass is exceptional.

Thank you to you as parents and carers for the role you have played and will play in home schooling. We know it isn't easy alongside all commitments you have to juggle.

I will continue to provide parents with as much information as I can. Please remember if you need any help, please contact any of the staff by email or contact the school.

Thank you to everyone for their continued support and I hope to see the children back at Mullaglass with their friends very soon.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Greenaway

Principal

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.

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.