



St. Joseph's Primary School and Nursery Unit



02.01.21

Dear Parents,

Firstly, may I wish you all a Happy New Year and a sincere hope that we will return to a normal routine as soon as possible.

As you know, Mr Peter Weir (DENI), has directed primary schools to close next week (4th – 8th January) for face to face onsite learning. St. Joseph's children were due to return on Thursday the 7th January and we will now be planning for remote learning on the 7th and 8th, for the majority of our pupils and onsite activities for certain children, as listed below. All children are to return to onsite school learning on the 11th January.

The only children who may attend on the 7th and 8th are:

- children in nursery
- children of key workers, who do not have any other childcare available
- vulnerable children

Information on who is a key worker/vulnerable child is available at:

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

As a school we are anxious to do whatever we can to help our community at this time. Our staff want to be at work in a normal routine, but against this, they are concerned about the safety of their own loved ones and themselves, particularly when the virus appears to be even more rampant in our society at present.

If your child falls into one of the categories of children who may attend please understand that school on these two days (7th and 8th) will not necessarily follow the normal daily routine, until school opens for all pupils on the 11th January.

Children working from home on the 7th and 8th January

- Wednesday 6th January - Staff will organise and plan the work to be covered by pupils on the 7th and 8th
- Staff will contact their classes through DOJO about the content of the work to be covered following this planning (parents please ensure your notifications are on)
- Pupils can upload completed work to their teacher through their portfolio on ClassDOJO
- As staff may also be supervising children at school, it will not be possible for them to answer queries from parents immediately so please be patient

If your child falls into the categories outlined by DENI and you are not in a position to keep them at home, the following arrangements will be in place:

- Normal school hours will apply
- Parents must ensure that they are contactable at short notice
- Children must wash their hands thoroughly at home before coming to school and all items such as lunchboxes must be wiped with sanitising product.



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- Children must bring in their own sanitiser/wipes/tissues/pencils/colouring pencils etc – there will be no borrowing and children **must be reminded by parents** of the need for good bathroom hygiene, washing hands, keeping their distance from others and safe sneezing and coughing routines.
- Children are to bring the packs that were sent home, back into school, as these may be used on the 7th and 8th.
- Children may be supervised completing work from these packs in line with their peers who remain at home.

We cannot deliver a curriculum to one reduced group of children while excluding our other pupils who remain at home.

In order to ensure that we create as safe an environment as possible, if you intend for your child to attend on the 7th and 8th January, we must insist on the following:

- Parents must notify the school via e mail to the [info@account](mailto:info@stjosephs.bessbrook.ni.sch.uk) info@stjosephs.bessbrook.ni.sch.uk by 2.00pm Tuesday 5th January if they intend for their child to attend school on the 7th and 8th.
- Parents must not send their child into school if they or anyone they have been in contact with over the last 48 hours has tested positive for Covid or has any Covid symptoms,
- Parents must be contactable at short notice and be available to collect their child as soon as possible in the event of an emergency or your child becoming unwell.
- Parents must provide current contact details via an e mail to the school info@account. info@stjosephs.bessbrook.ni.sch.uk before their child attends on the 7th and/or 8th

School Meals

If your child is going to be taking school meals on the 7th or 8th please book these online as soon as possible in order that the school kitchen can plan accordingly. Please note that the menu may not be as originally stated.

It is possible that our staff complement may also be reduced. At this point I am unsure of exactly how many staff will be able to report to work. I hope you understand our frustration with the current arrangements. Like all of you, we too are worried and concerned for our loved ones. We want to help in any way that we can, whilst also ensuring that children, staff and our school community as a whole are all safe.

It is quite possible given the rapidly changing nature of the current situation, that these arrangements may need to be altered at short notice. Please be alert for new notifications.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. F. Hannaway
Principal



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