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2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent,

Happy New Year! I hope you were able to enjoy the Christmas break and to relax and have some family time together.

As you will have heard and read in the media, primary schools will not start back until Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

This week the Education Minister, Mr Peter Weir, announced revised plans for the reopening of schools next week.

I am writing to update you on these recent developments.

Below is a summary of the Minister's key points relating to primary settings:

- The first day of the normal school term can be used to prepare for remote learning;
- Primary school pupils will be taught remotely until 8<sup>th</sup> January, after which they will attend school for face to face teaching from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021;
- Schools will accommodate vulnerable children and the children of key workers from the start of term, for "supervised" learning.

As originally planned, school was due to reopen on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January; this will now be a planning day for teachers to prepare online work for the P1-7 pupils.

Nursery will resume on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021 as per usual times for face to face teaching.

The Minister has stated **"A child of a key worker is a child for whom both parents (or a parent in a single parent family) is a key worker, with no other safe alternative"**. (A full list of Key Workers is listed to the end of this letter.) In light of this instruction, the school will be open for the supervision of children of Key workers and vulnerable pupils on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> & Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021. If you are a key worker and need your child to be supervised in school, please contact me via email – [jmccann993@c2kni.net](mailto:jmccann993@c2kni.net) by 9am on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January to enable us to make the arrangements necessary to facilitate your request. Please include the following information:

- Names of Parent(s)/Guardian(s)
- Name and class(es) of child(ren)
- Key Worker designation for both parents/single parent (from the list provided)
- Day(s) supervision required for your child

It is important to note that pupils attending school under these arrangements are being 'supervised' and will not receive face to face teaching. However, they will be able to access the online work provided for their class. This service must only be used as a last resort for the safety of everyone.

We have been instructed that P7 children should not be brought into school for AQE Transfer Test tuition as this would be against DE Policy.

As you can imagine, this is not the start to Term 2 we had envisaged. However, the new mutation of Covid-19 is highly infectious so we must follow the advice and do what is best to keep our pupils, staff and school community safe. In the interests of everyone's safety, please continue to take every precaution and adhere to all previous health guidance given.

Take care and stay safe,

Mrs McCann

Principal

### **Appendix - 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