

QUEEN ELIZABETH II PRIMARY (Pomeroy) SCHOOL



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3rd January 2021

Dear Parent,

Firstly, I hope you have enjoyed a healthy and happy time with your family over the Christmas Break.

In response to the rising infection number and spread of Coronavirus the Department of Education have amended the return to school date for the majority of Primary pupils (P1-P7) to Monday 11th January.

Remote Learning

All pupils will begin their remote learning on Thursday 7th January. School was due to start back on Wednesday 6th January, however, the Department of Education has advised schools to take their first day of term as a preparation day for the planning for remote learning.

Activity Packs for all pupils should be collected in school on Wednesday 6th January from 1pm. It is essential that everyone entering the school grounds wears a face covering and uses hand sanitiser provided at the main door. Due to the high rate of transmission in the Mid Ulster area, please avoid unnecessary contact with staff and parents when collecting packs.

A timetable for collection will be issued in due course. Each pack will contain work for Thursday 7th, Friday 8th January and work for the following week. This is a precautionary measure in the event schools do not reopen on 11th January.

Unlike the last school closure, completed activity packs will need to be returned to school for marking. When we have guaranteed guidance on the return to school, we will share information on how this will take place.

Please do check the school website daily, as this will be our main vehicle of communication as the current situation unfolds. Also, it will ensure you are kept up to date with learning requirements and further supplementary materials.

Provision for Key Worker Children and Vulnerable Children

As per DE instruction school will be open for the children of families where **both parents** are key workers, occupations considered to be such are listed on the DE website at www.deni.gov.uk

A definition of a vulnerable child can be found at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-cross-departmental-covid-19-vulnerable-children-and-young-peoples-plan>

If you consider either of the above applies to you and you have no other safe alternative means of childcare for the two days, please email me on srobinson243@c2kni.net on or before 12 noon on Monday 4th January.

For those children attending:

- Pupils must wear school uniform and bring a packed lunch and a coat
- Supervised learning for all keyworker pupils (P1-P7) will be carried out in the dinner hall. Each pupil will be allocated an individual desk
- Key worker provision will be supervised learning only. Key worker children will complete the same activities as children learning remotely from home. No additional face-to-face teaching will take place
- Confirmation of the availability of the school bus and school meals for the two days has not yet been provided by the Education Authority.

As you are aware, the community transmission of Covid 19 is currently extremely high. The Minister has closed primary schools next week in order to try to reduce transmission. Although a little disruptive to school and family routines, I welcome this intervention in order to try to allow us to get all children back to school as soon as possible. With this in mind, please only apply for key worker provision as a last resort. This will allow us as a school to keep as many children and staff apart for a little while longer and, hopefully ensure the transmission of the virus is kept low and that all staff would be available for a full restart when required.

Once again, I want to thank you for your continued support and understanding as we navigate through these difficult circumstances together. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I wish you all a very happy and peaceful New Year and look forward to welcoming all our children back to school in the very near future.

Kind regards,

S Robinson

(Principal)