



St Mary's Primary School, Greenlough

220 Mayogall Road, Portglenone, Co Antrim, BT44 8NN

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Email: mmeehan763@c2kni.net

Principal: Mr. M Meehan

31st December 2020

Dear Parents

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support during a very difficult 2020. The Coronavirus pandemic has created significant challenges for our school this year however, as a community we have worked together in the interest of all. Our children are happy and safe in school and this was our priority as we entered uncharted waters back in August. As a school we have measures and contingency plans in place and maintaining the relationship between school and home is essential to ensure our children develop academically, socially and emotionally. The Coronavirus has not gone away and with the new variant we continue to face a challenging second and third term, however as long as we stay vigilant and follow PHA guidelines we will continue to keep everybody safe. Following the public announcement made by Peter Weir today please note the following:

School will move to remote teaching on **Wednesday 6th January 2021** and our school will open to all pupils for face-to-face teaching on **Monday 11th January 2021**. As stipulated on the DE website '*Schools will accommodate vulnerable children and the children of key workers from the start of term.*' Therefore, school will be open to children of key workers from **9am on Wednesday 6th January 2021**. Definition of key workers has been added to the end of this letter. Children will go directly to their class as normal and complete the same classwork provided by their teacher as outlined below. We have not received notification of the availability of school meals during this period, a text will be sent out in due course.

Primary One & Primary Two

Work packs for Primary 1 & Primary 2 children can be collected from school on Wednesday 6th January 2021. They are to be completed at home and returned to your child's class teacher on Monday 11th January. Mr Meehan will be at the front of school on Wednesday morning to distribute packs.

Primary Three – Primary Seven

Children will be taught remotely via **google classroom** from Wednesday 6th January – Friday 8th January. Each class has experienced using google classroom in school and our key stage two children have been using google classroom as part of their homework. Log in details for your child will remain the same and have been sent home to parents. If you are unsure of your child's log in details, please email your child's class teacher or call the school on Wednesday morning. A step-by-step guide on accessing google classroom has been posted onto our school website and this includes the procedure of uploading completed work. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or Mr Meehan if you have any difficulties accessing the work as alternative arrangements can be made.

www.stmaryspsgreenlough.com/classes

**Please note these are short term arrangements in response to Mr Weir's announcement. Parents will be notified of necessary measures if the lock down period is extended.*



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Definition of key workers - in accordance with Department of Education:

- 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

School will notify parents via text, email, school app & Facebook of any further changes.

Yours Sincerely

Mr M. Meehan (*Principal*)