***“To be the best we can be every day, in every way!”***

ST PATRICK’S PRIMARY SCHOOL

10, Annaghmore Coalisland, Co. Tyrone. N.I. BT71 4QZ

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Dear parents/Carers/Guardians,

These are undoubtedly, the most surreal times that we are living in and changing day by day. Without reserve, they also must become the most resourceful and creative days were we rewrite the norm and create for ourselves and our families and community a new reality that will keep us safe and protect us all from our hidden enemy, COVIT19.

To this end, St Patrick’s PS, Annaghmore will open tomorrow and as long as can reasonably be deemed safe to do so, **for pupils of KEY WORKER families**; please ensure that there is no one else at home – older sibling or adult who can care for your child as this will the safest place for them to be; **school provision should be the last resort at present.**

**KEY WORKERS are**

* those in Front Line NHS jobs and in Social Care to whom we are forever indebted for the totally selfless manner they are currently carrying out their jobs;
* those providing essential services – delivery drivers, food producers, food providers, postal workers, water, electric, sewage services;
* those in Education sector and Childcare sector

It is essential that if you decide you have no alternative but to leave your child to school, please ensure you have fully explained the concept of ‘social distancing.’ For Primary School pupils, this is a completely new way to protect them and ourselves while at school but it is essential that we fully implement the safety measures asked of us all while at school. Hand washing will be often and very frequent as will total insistence of “Catch it; Bin it; Kill it!”

Parents will be asked on arrival to verify their position, their occupation and to verify that there is absolutely no one else at home to care for their child. This is purely to ensure that children are always in the safest place possible during these very uncertain times and also because due to commitments and personal concerns, we will operate using a substantially reduced staffing level.

Please bring your child via the hall door at the rear of the school as for normal Morning Club arrangements; on collecting them, they will go out to you when they see you arriving onto the yard for them in the afternoons. Please appreciate also, that normal school teaching will not be taking place.

I know we are walking through uncharted times, but together, we can help each other through safely. Please be advised that these arrangements will change in the days ahead as directed by Stormont, DE, EA and CCMS. We will keep you up to date as these events unfold by Text Messaging.

Take good care of yourselves, your families and those near to you, remembering, that social distancing and self-isolation are the new forms of respect and care for yourselves and others.

With very best wishes,

Anne Mc Guinness (Principal)