ST PATRICK’S PRIMARY SCHOOL

 

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

Principal: Anne Mc Guinness

Web Site: www.stpatricksannaghmore.com

Telephone :(028) 87740661

Email: info@stpatricksps.coalisland.ni.sch.uk

Wednesday 6th January 2021

Dear Parents,

A never-ending picture of change across Education over the last 24 hours alone – and we do not know where they will stop…

I can now clarify for us all what the situation is regarding reopening of St Patrick’s PS next week:-

* All pupils will be taught remotely from Thursday 7th January 2021 until further notice.
* **All learning will be On-Line as directed by Minister Weir.**
* School will accommodate vulnerable children and the children of key workers from Thursday 7th January **for supervised learning only.** There will be **no direct teaching** and material given will match that online for their class. **(Definition of key worker is provided at the end of this letter.)**

*Once again, children should only now attend school if there is absolutely no alternative care for them; home remains the safest place for them to be as it has been their secure bubble for the last 10 days.*

*If individual children must attend****, parent must email the Principal on***

***info@stpatricksps.coalisland.ni.sch.uk***

giving their **child’s name, class** and **how they qualify for attendance**.

Children will be kept in their class bubbles and **no child will be kept after their finishing staggered time**.

* All attendees must bring their break and lunch with them in clear, disposable bag.
1. As for Term 1, all restrictions and routines regarding hand hygiene, class and yard bubbles, no school bags or lunch boxes remain strictly in place across the school to avoid, as far as we can, transmission of this virus from multiple points into and out of the school.
2. Once again, all parents are asked not to cross the school gate at any time for any reason.
3. Please ring into the school
4. All work on Home Learning Class pages on website will be available from Thursday 7th January for you to access from home. Please be fully aware, that we cannot replicate a ‘school day’ through this medium and that Home Work will be part of the daily work until further notice; we will ensure core learning content is provided and seek your support in helping your child access the work daily.

**Not everything requires printing; most of the tasks can be completed on paper off screen and they copied and uploaded to the site for their teacher to see. Answers will be provided for work for marking at home when appropriate.**

1. **As promised, PTA fundraising through Go Fund Me page has raised sufficient funds to finance a whole school licence for 1 year from Collins-on-line and we will forward log-in details to you before Monday. All children will access their reading via this resource until further notice. Thank you sincerely to all who supported the fund raising page and I encourage everyone to please support it and donate on behalf of your child/family so we can sustain such vital learning resources for all our children.**

**Primary 6 & Primary 7 Classes.**

Both P6 & P7 classes will use Google Classroom to access their learning and it is essential that they are logging into these classrooms daily from home. Once again, answers will be provided for marking work at home when appropriate to do so.

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As we are all fully aware, the children who were due to sit the transfer GL Test on 30th January, will not get closure for all the hard work they have put in over the last year.

I will put together a short message for current Primary 6 parents regarding Transfer 2021 when it is clear how they intend to proceed with it…

**I know this is not the start to 2021 that we had all hoped for, but it is a necessary one to keep our children, ourselves and our communities safer. The glimmer is shining in the months ahead of the vaccine reaching our school too and it will be a welcome sight coming in!**

**Once again, thank you all sincerely, for supporting our school in the gracious manner that you have done so to this point; with your continued support, please God, we can look forward to brighter days ahead and a healthier, safer world will be our to share again.**

**Take care, keep safe and well and Happy New Year!**

**With very best wishes,**

Anne McGuinness

**Anne McGuinness (Principal)**

**DE Definition of vulnerable groups.**

* A child who has an assigned social worker
* A child who is supported through CAMHS.
* A child who is in receipt of a Statement of Special Educational Needs
* A child who is accessing EOTAS

 **DE Definition of a key worker**

* Health and Social Care including doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, home carers, staff required to maintain our health and social care sector.
* Education and welfare – includes pre-school and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who will remain active during COVID19 response;
* Public safety and national security – civilians and police, key contractors, Fire and Rescue Services, prison services and other nation security roles.
* Transport – including those keeping air, water, road and rail transport modes operating during COVID19 response;
* Utilities and communications – including staff needed for oil, gas, electric, water, sewage, as well as postal, banking, building society and Credit Union staffs;
* Financial Services – all essential service providers;
* Food and other necessary goods – including food processing, production, distribution and sales;
* Retail – those permitted to operate by the executive as ‘essential’
* Other essential workers such as national and local government officials including admin occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID19 reponse.