



*Lámh Dé san obair*  
*The Hand of God at Work*

# Our Lady and St Patrick Primary School

## Bunscoil Mhuire agus Phádraig

Telephone: 028 44613045  
Fax: 028 44617085

Email: [sprenter625@c2kni.net](mailto:sprenter625@c2kni.net)

Edward Street  
Downpatrick  
County Down  
BT30 6JD

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians

Happy New Year from all the staff in Our Lady and St Patrick Primary School, Bunscoil Mhuire agus Phádraig.

I hope you and your family are safe and well and have had a peaceful Christmas.

It is the start of a New Year and I find myself writing to you again about another school closure. This is not what we wanted and is not an ideal start to our second term, but given the rising numbers of infections we must follow DE Guidance regarding schools.

School will therefore be closed to all pupils on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January to allow staff to plan for remote learning. It will re-open on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January for vulnerable children and the children of key workers. These children will receive supervised learning (this will not be normal teaching as teachers will be working on remote learning at the same time). Please see definitions of vulnerable and keyworker children below.

Parents who wish to avail of Supervised Learning in the school should email [cfitzpatrick364@c2kni.net](mailto:cfitzpatrick364@c2kni.net) before 12pm on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. This will allow us to plan accordingly.

Remote learning will begin on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January and will focus primarily on online learning. If, however your child cannot access online learning, a paper pack will be available for collection in school at the times below. Families can pick up all packs at the earliest time slot for their family.

We are mindful that this is a difficult time for all our families but particularly for our Primary 7 children, who are, sitting the Transfer Test over the next four weeks. These children will be contacted directly by their class teachers via Seesaw and Google Classroom on Monday afternoon.

At present school will re-open for all pupils on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January but this situation may change at short notice and we will endeavour to keep you informed should this be the case.

**Pack Pick Up Times Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January Main Door of School**

8.30am	P1 R1/2
9.00am	P2
9.30am	P3 R3/4
10.00am	P4
10.30am	P5 R5/6
11.00am	P6
11.30am	P7 R7

**Please remember our priority is always the education, health and wellbeing of all our children.**

Yours faithfully

*Simone Prenter*

Principal

## **Department of Education Definition of a Vulnerable Child (Jan 21)**

The definition of Vulnerable Children as set out in the cross-departmental Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan 2020 is: (<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-cross-departmental-covid-19-vulnerable-children-and-young-peoples-plan>)

- A child who has an assigned social worker because he or she is a child in need, in need of protection (or on the child protection register) or is a looked after child.
- A child in need includes young carers, children with disabilities, and children living in families where there is domestic abuse, substance abuse, and / or mental health difficulties.
- A child who is receiving support from, or has been referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
- A child who has a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN), a child who is accessing EOTAS, or a child who normally accesses Education Nurture Units.
- A child who is 'on-the-edge' of receiving support from children's social services.
- A child who is in need, including in need of protection, but whose need is not known to statutory services.
- A child who is not known to statutory or voluntary and community support services but who is vulnerable because their family is under increased pressure due to Covid-19 related circumstances.
- A young person who was previously a looked after child, whether or not they are receiving support from statutory services.
- A child who has been placed for adoption.
- Asylum seeking and refugee children and children whose parents have no recourse to public funds.

## **Department of Education Definition of a Key Worker (Jan 21)**

(Please note that if one parent meets this definition then the child can attend school)

- 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.