

Good Afternoon Everyone.

Apologies for interrupting your holidays but needs must!

You will have heard the announcement from the Education Minister this morning (see Ministerial Statement attached) that Primary School pupils **will not return** to school until **Monday 11th January 2021** (except those who are vulnerable or children of Key Workers).

As per the Minister's Statement, we as a school will commence 'Remote Learning' as per the school's policies (see also attached) from Wednesday 6th January 2021 (the first day of the school term next week ie. Tuesday, can be used by schools to prepare for the first week).

Further details regarding the arrangements re. 'supervised learning' of Key Worker/Vulnerable pupils etc. have been clarified by DE below:

- A child of a key worker is a child for whom both parents (or a parent in a single parent family) is a key worker, with no other safe alternative;
- The Department have stated children who qualify as children of Key Workers will be in the school building for 'supervised 'learning'. It should be made clear to parents that this is not 'face-to-face teaching'; this is being supervised in the school building, doing the same activities as the children who are at home.
- The term "vulnerable" encompasses those children who are in need of protection, or in need, as defined by the Children (NI) Order 1995. Children and young people in need may include those: • Receiving support from Health & Social Services including family support, child protection and looked after children services; • On the Child Protection Register; • With statements of special education needs; • Accessing Education Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS); • Accessing Education Nurture Units; • With emerging and diagnosed mental health needs; • Who are homeless; • Who are young carers; • Subject to paramilitary threat.

In the event of a prolonged school closure due to COVID-19 restrictions, we also have a limited number of devices (Laptops/Chromebooks) available to lend out to those pupils who do not have sufficient access to a digital device and who have the greatest need.

The School Office will prepare the paperwork which the parents must sign up to before a device is allowed to be lent out (Loan Agreement/Pupil Usage Agreement/Acceptable Use Agreement) etc.

If you would like to be considered for a 'loan device' please fill in the attached pro-forma and either return it to the Office or email it to [hglenn520@c2ken.net](mailto:hglenn520@c2ken.net) before 5.00 p.m. on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

These current measures have been put in place by the Minister for Education after having considered the most up to date advice from the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Scientific Advisor.

From the following week, that is week commencing 11th January 2021, it is envisaged that primary school pupils will return to full time education. However, as this pandemic continues and more data becomes available in early January, Minister Weir has said he will continue to work closely with Minister Swann to consider how best to support pupils and schools and return to a more normal education delivery as and when the medical and scientific advice indicates this is appropriate.

Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation with these important matters.

Happy New Year to everyone and here's to a better COVID-Free 2021!

T.R. McMaster

Principal