

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Department of Education issued details yesterday (18.02.21) regarding the phased return of some pupils to schools in March 2021 – see attached PDF and link below for full details:

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/news/phased-return-pupils-start-march>

In summary what this all means for our own school is as follows:

- All Year groups (P1-P7) will continue with remote learning from Monday 22 February 2021 with children of 'Key Workers and Vulnerable Pupils' availing of 'supervised learning' in school, if requested, between now and the Easter holidays by applying through the online form issued each Thursday morning and which closes at midday on Friday;
- P1-P3 will return to school for face to face teaching for 2 weeks from Monday 8 March to Friday 19 March and then revert to remote learning for 1 week before the Easter holiday ie Monday 22 - Friday 26 March 2021;
- P1-P3 will follow their normal staggered start and finish times when in school for face to face teaching and use the normal entrance/exit points;
- P4-P7 will continue to engage in remote learning through their online platforms and 'Educational Learning Pack 2' until Friday 26 March 2021 ie. up to the Easter holidays;
- From Mon 12 April 2021, P1-P3 pupils will return for face to face teaching in school but no definite decision has been made as yet regarding the return of face to face teaching for pupils in P4-P7;
- **N.B.** Minister Weir has stated that his main objective was a full return of all pupils to school as soon as practicably possible after the Easter break but this has to be balanced against the public health position.

I trust that this update clarifies the current situation pertaining to Primary schools at the present moment in time. Further updates will of course be issued when available.

Thank you in anticipation of your continued co-operation and understanding in these challenging times.

Please continue to stay safe and take care.

T.R. McMaster MBE B.Ed
Principal