**St Brigid’s PS**

**Castle Street**

**Ballymoney**

**BT53 6JXso**

**Principal: Mr Kieran O’Neill**

**koneill580@c2kni.net**

**Tel: 028 2766 2664**

**Monday, 04 January 2021**

**Dear Parents/Guardians**

I hope that, even with all the restrictions and lockdowns, you have all managed to have had a lovely Christmas and New Year break. Unfortunately, the issues with regards to COVID-19 show no sign of easing even with the encouraging hope offered by the news of vaccinations being rolled out. The onset of this new strain of the virus has caused concern, in particular with the speed at which it is now spreading. The cases daily in our area and in Northern Ireland generally are concerning. This has, as I’m sure you are aware, led to the current six-week lockdown and a delay on a full return to primary school until Monday 11 January. The school will be open on Friday 8 January from 9 am – 3 pm to cater for children of **key worker and vulnerable children**. This will be supervised learning for the children in school on this day. Remote learning activities will be posted on Seesaw and Teams for your child’s class for this day. Thursday 7 January will be a staff day only to plan and prepare for remote learning and any other potential school closures throughout what may be a challenging term ahead.

We hope that the school will open as planned on Monday 11 January. If there are any changes to this plan announced during the week I will be in touch again.

**Definition of Vulnerable Children and Young People**

The definition of Vulnerable Children as set out in the cross-departmental Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan 2020 is:

* 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

If you require the school to facilitate your child or children on Friday 8 January (9am – 2pm or 3pm) under the Vulnerable child category please contact the school via the email address koneill580@c2kni.net before Tuesday 5 January at 12 noon to enable planning for Friday in terms of supervision, meals etc.

**Key Workers:**

If you are a key worker and require this service, please complete the Microsoft Form by clicking on the link below before Tuesday 5 January at 12 noon:

[**https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-yeCOETeDkaBkAVAK4mNqMjAn6Rw9FZFoJKRknI5evRUOEtDWDdJSFNGSlJCOTNMTjZDT05BU0lNMS4u**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-yeCOETeDkaBkAVAK4mNqMjAn6Rw9FZFoJKRknI5evRUOEtDWDdJSFNGSlJCOTNMTjZDT05BU0lNMS4u)

**It is important to note, the Department of Education states that parents are only to use this service if necessary and other arrangements for the childcare of key workers cannot be used.**

All other procedures with regards to COVID-19 that were in place prior to the Christmas break remain in place. It is important to remember that social distancing and wearing of a face covering is requested when entering the school grounds at any time.

Thank you for your co-operation in everything so far. Take care and keep safe.

Mr O’Neill

Principal