



BALLYLIFFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 1st January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope that you all had a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Further to the Education Minister's recent announcement and revision of plans on the reopening of schools, the following guidance has been issued by DENI:

- Primary school pupils will be taught remotely until 8th January, after which they will attend school for face-to-face teaching.
- Schools will accommodate vulnerable children and children of Key Workers

Please read the following information with regard to Ballylifford Primary School.

- **Monday 4th January** Staff Training Day including time to prepare of remote learning.
- **Tuesday 5th January -Friday 8th January** Remote Learning for children in Year 1 to Year 7 via Seesaw or home learning packs.
NB: Further information on the collection of books and home learning packs will be issued in due course.
- **Monday 11th January** All children return to school for a normal school day and face to face teaching resumes.

Vulnerable children and the children of Key Workers

Schools will accommodate vulnerable children and the children of key workers from the start of term; **Tuesday 5th January**. If you need to avail of this service, please refer to the government guidelines and use the definition of Key Workers included with this letter.

In order for our school to ascertain the level of need, please complete the COVID Vulnerable Children and Key Workers Provision Survey on our school website before **9pm Sunday 3rd January 2021**

School Meals

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, parents will receive a payment from Education Authority for week beginning Monday 4th January.

As we approach the start of Term Two, we are once again faced with last-minute changes from DENI. With a new more contagious strain of COVID 19 spreading rapidly, this is a welcome announcement to ensure the health and safety of the whole community and it will be kept under review.

It continues to be a stressful and frustrating time for education settings, schools, pupils and parents. The safety and well-being of our pupils is paramount, and we hope to be able to welcome everyone back to school again on Monday 11th January. If any further advice/guidance is provided, this will be communicated to parents/carers.

Should any parents have a concern or query, please contact the school office on 02879418388 or by email info@ballylifford.cookstown.ni.sch.uk Our school website www.ballyliffordps.com and SCHOOLS NI app will also have regular updates.

Many thanks

Mr Ciaran McElroy (Principal)

Definitions: vulnerable children and key workers

Taken from DENI advice, 31 Dec 20

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-cross-departmental-covid-19-vulnerable-children-andyoung-peoples-plan>)

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.

Key workers are defined as:

- 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, youth 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