



Dear Parents

As we head into the weekend after a week with much speculation, we wish to share with you how Killowen PS & NU has been dealing with COVID19 and provide you with an overview of what action has been taken here so far and how we are planning to proceed in the coming days. Our primary concern here at Killowen, like yourselves is the health, well-being and safety of our pupils, whilst also considering our staff and their own family situations.

Killowen takes its lead and direction from the Public Health Agency, Department of Education and Education Authority. The school has been following and adhering to the PHA guidance which continues to advise the public on being proactive with good hygiene practices and gives clear guidance on the different scenarios of what to do across a range of environments.

As shared with you over a number of newsletters since the new year, school has already implemented a higher than normal level of approach to good hygiene practices.

- Staff have consistently been directing children at particular, key times of the day to wash their hands.
- In addition to this habit, each room has had sufficient supplies of hand sanitiser available.
- Increased cleaning of frequently used areas also been happening and the school has been well stocked with cleaning materials.
- Clear signage has also been used within the building.

On Thursday 12th March, the advice from the PHA has changed and parents should continue to refer to the link below and the frequent updating of what to do if any illness arises within the family setting.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

To summarise this from the PHA, the most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:-

- recent onset of new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature

The PHA state that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild infection and that:-

- if your child has symptoms of coronavirus infection (COVID-19), however mild, keep them at home and they should not leave their house for 7 days from when their symptoms started. (See Ending Isolation section in the above link for further details)
- you do not need to call NHS111 to go into self-isolation. If the child's symptoms worsen during home isolation or are no better after 7 days contact [NHS 111 online](#). If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

Parents are asked to contact the school office directly or email using the info@killowenps.lisburn.ni.sch.uk address to inform school if a pupil, or any family members become infected and the PHA direction would be to take the advice above and remain at home.

The Prime Minister along with the Stormont Executive have stated that at this stage, schools will remain open. As Killowen PS & NU is led by the Department of Education NI, we take direction from this Governmental body.

However, we as a school, are preparing for the real prospect of the directive to close all schools which will probably come at short notice. We, as a staff, are acting in readiness to be prepared to continue to support your children in their learning, by supplying work over a potential period of time away from school.

We have now set up a specific section on our website which is where we will upload all information regarding PHA advice, school letters and the links to the provision of work for the children. More details around this will be shared when required.

There are numerous unknowns as we head into the latter part of the school year and our plans for routine trips, events and annual school practices will be under review and subject to amendments, postponement or cancellation.

- At this stage Swimming lessons for Primary 5 are still going ahead
- PTA Quiz Night has been cancelled on Friday 20th March
- SCHOOL IS CLOSED ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY as per the Holiday List
- Sporting fixtures, sport coaching sessions and Shared Education are under review
- Residential trips will be subject to site availability and DENI direction
- With regard to wrap-around childcare, parents should contact Sleepy Hollow directly about their arrangements for provision, **should** the school premises be completely closed.

We will continue to keep in contact with parents via text and through the school's website and Twitter.

We appreciate the support and patience that you have shown already throughout this worrying time across not only our country but the world.

Yours sincerely

F Douglas
A Mulligan